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to the

# BEACH & BEYOND

*Your in-room lifestyle guide to Aruba*



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BEACH RESORT ARUBA



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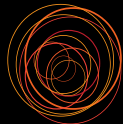
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RESTAURANT

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Check out the Aruba Wine and Dine members at [www.arubawineanddine.com](http://www.arubawineanddine.com)

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[www.saltandpepperaruba.com](http://www.saltandpepperaruba.com)



## International Cuisine & Sea-

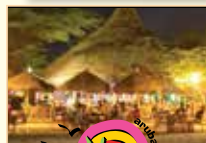
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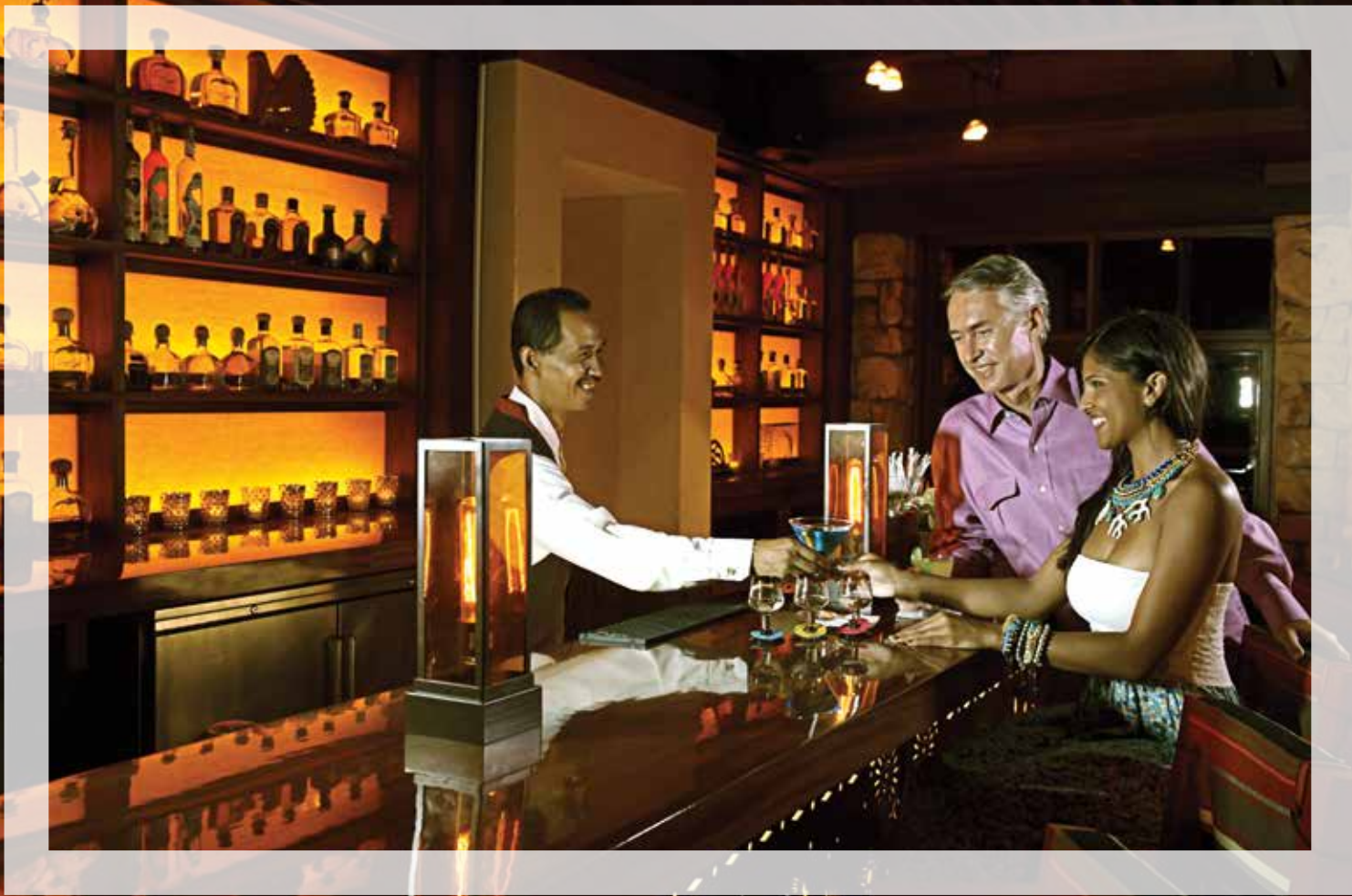
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## Our Front Cover

Shot on pristine Eagle Beach. Driftwood sign created by local artist Trudy Lampe (see page 96 for more information about Trudy and her work).





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# Calendar of Events

## One happy island



### January 1 • NEW YEAR'S DAY

Aruba welcomes the New Year with traditional music and an amazing island-wide display of fireworks. With the pop of the champagne cork at midnight, troupes of traveling musicians, known as "Dande" groups, brighten the New Year with song, bestowing blessings of goodwill and prosperity upon the local community. Aruba's joyous holiday atmosphere can be enjoyed with just a simple evening on the beach under the stars and fireworks, or at one of the glitzy gala receptions held at various island resorts.

### January-February • ARUBA'S 60th CARNIVAL CELEBRATION

Aruba's biggest party of the year is a monthlong celebration consisting of festive "jump-ups" (street parties), spectacular parades, and musical events. Dazzling costumes and music play a central role in events ranging from the queen elections to the grand parades, which wind their way down the streets of San Nicolas and Oranjestad to the delight of thousands of spectators. The Grand Parade in Oranjestad will take place March 2, 2014. Contact the Aruba Carnival Foundation (Stichting Arubaanse Carnival or SAC) at Tel: (297) 582-4214 / Fax: (297) 588-2964 or visit [www.carnavalaruba.aw](http://www.carnavalaruba.aw) for additional information.

### January 11 • ARUBA'S TORCH PARADE

Originally organized by the Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest social club, the Torch Parade is now the official opening parade on the Aruba Carnival Foundation schedule. The tradition continues with bright lights leading the way down the streets of the capital of Oranjestad. The parade begins at 8 p.m. and sets the pace for the festivities to come in the following weeks.

### January 25 • BETICO CROES DAY

Aruba pays tribute to its greatest statesman on his birthday. The late Gilberto Francois "Betico" Croes helped Aruba obtain its "Status Aparte" (separate status) within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This official holiday features various cultural and sporting events, as well as popular games held at various venues on the Island.

### January 25 • BETICO CROES MEMORIAL 10K RUN & 5K FUN WALK

Calling all runners! Betico Croes's hometown of Santa Cruz sponsors an amateur road race through the hilly, scenic terrain

of that area. The circular route takes runners through residential neighborhoods and back to the main intersection of Santa Cruz. Avoiding the hotter hours of the day, the starting pistol sounds at 5:30 p.m. Open registration through IBISA at Tel: (297)-582-4987 / Fax: (297)-583-6478 / Email: [ibisaaruba@gmail.com](mailto:ibisaaruba@gmail.com).

### January 27-30 • PRE-FINAL ARUBA CAISO & SOCA MONARCH 2014

Setting the tone for the music of the new Carnival season, hundreds of talented locals compete for entry into the grand finals to become the king or queen of Aruba's Calypso and Road March Contest. Venue: Joe Laveist Ballpark at 8 p.m.

### February 1 • GRAND FINAL ARUBA CAISO & SOCA MONARCH 2014

Attracting more than 10,000 spectators, one of the most exciting and popular local music festivals is the annual Calypso and Road March Contest. This festival is your best bet for enjoying imaginative music of the people, by the people, and for the people. Original musical compositions and lyrics are presented with the social commentary of calypso or the catchy beat of road march, helping to define the Carnival season. The most popular songs will be featured in the upcoming jump-ups and parades. Venue: Joe Laveist Ballpark at 8 p.m.

### January 31 • CHILDREN'S QUEEN ELECTION

Carnival excitement builds as Aruba elects its first queens of the season. Contestants in the Children's Carnival Queen Election are 6-9 years of age. All demonstrate their Carnival spirit through dance performances, speeches, and Carnival shows. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7 p.m.

### February 8 • YOUTH CARNIVAL QUEEN ELECTION

Youth Carnival Queen contestants, ages 13-17, take the stage showcasing their Carnival spirit through dance performances, speeches, and Carnival shows in hopes of being crowned queen for the season. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7 p.m.

### February 13 • MRS. CARNIVAL ELECTION

A lighthearted look at Aruba's Carnival tradition presented by its most experienced participants, all vying for the satin sash of Mrs. Carnival. Highlights of the election include skits and joyful displays of Carnival costumes and dance. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:30 p.m.





### **February 14 • CONCERT: WINDOW TO THE WORLD**

### **February 15 • GRAND FINAL TUMBA CONTEST**

Originally from Africa with a Caribbean influence, the tumba music played during the Carnival season has the rhythm of the “tambu” (a tambour with a 6/8 beat). This event features local bands and singers competing for the tumba king or queen title with their original musical compositions and lyrics. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:30 p.m.

### **February 16 • CHILDREN’S CARNIVAL PARADE IN SAN NICOLAS**

Aruba’s youngest Carnival enthusiasts take center stage as they parade down the streets of San Nicolas dressed in colorful costumes representing various themes. The parade starts at noon in downtown San Nicolas.

### **February 21 • CARNIVAL QUEEN ELECTION**

Aruba elects one of its most important Carnival representatives, the Aruba Carnival queen, from amongst contestants between the ages of 17 and 25 representing districts, schools, and social clubs on the Island. Marked by lavish production numbers, the election is judged by a panel of local and international judges. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:30 p.m.

### **February 22 • CHILDREN’S CARNIVAL PARADE IN NOORD**

The district of Noord demonstrates its Carnival spirit with the presentation of its own children’s parade. Children representing elementary schools and social clubs participate in vibrant interpretations of different themes. This event starts at 1 p.m.

### **February 22 • ARUBA’S TIVOLI LIGHTING PARADE**

Aruba’s favorite evening Carnival parade is a visual treat. Thousands of tiny lights are incorporated into costumes, road pieces, and floats, heightening the dramatic effect of an already stunning and creative display. Live bands accompany the various participating Carnival groups. Held in downtown Oranjestad, the parade begins at 8 p.m.

### **February 23 • CHILDREN’S GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE IN ORANJESTAD**

The Island’s various Carnival groups come together to form the

largest children’s parade of the season, Aruba’s 37th Children’s Grand Carnival Parade. Hundreds of children enjoy the opportunity to show off their dancing skills and colorful costumes. Held in downtown Oranjestad, the event begins at 1 p.m.

### **February 24 • ARUBA’S INTERNATIONAL CARNIVAL MULTICULTURAL QUEEN**

Time and location TBA

### **February 25 • TOURIST NIGHT STEELBAND STREET SHOW**

Starting at 6 p.m. Location TBA

### **February 26 • INTERNATIONAL CONCERT: WINDOW TO THE WORLD CARIBBEAN NIGHT**

### **February 27 • SAN NICOLAS LIGHTING PARADE**

Although not as extravagant as the Oranjestad version of the parade, the San Nicolas Lighting Parade is no less jubilant in its presentation of dance, music, and Carnival spirit. The parade starts at 8 p.m.

### **March 1 • JOUVERT MORNING**

An early-morning open invitation to Aruba’s largest “jump-up” is extended to Carnival enthusiasts throughout the Island. Popularly known as the “pajama party,” this event brings thousands of people to San Nicolas to follow the various live-music caravans down the city streets. Set the alarm clock! This exciting jump-up begins at 4 a.m. and continues until sunrise.

### **March 1 • SAN NICOLAS GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE**

This is a prelude to the Grand Carnival Parade of Oranjestad. Local musicians create an exceptional ambiance in San Nicolas by playing their latest Carnival hits to the delight of hundreds of marchers dressed in resplendent costumes. Beautifully decorated themed floats accompanied by their floor members parade through the streets of San Nicolas until sunset. This parade starts at noon in San Nicolas.

### **March 2 • ARUBA’S 60th GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE**

The largest Carnival parade is the Grand Parade through Oranjestad, held on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This parade is filled with unforgettable music, spectacular floats, and original costumes decorated with colorful stones, sequins, and



feathers, creating a unique display. Aruba's main event starts at 10 a.m. in Oranjestad and continues into the early evening hours.

### March 3 • CARNIVAL MONDAY

Official holiday. The traditional horse parade through downtown Oranjestad begins at 4 p.m.

### March 3 • OLD MASK PARADE AND BURNING OF KING MOMITO

The end of the Carnival season is first marked in San Nicolas with a parade ending in the symbolic burning of "King Momito." This event takes place from 7 to 10 p.m.

### March 4 • OLD MASK PARADE & BURNING OF KING MOMO

Carnival 60 comes to an official end on the eve of Ash Wednesday with the burning of "King Momo." This is preceded by a parade throughout the streets of Oranjestad. The parade starts at 8 p.m.

### March 5 • ASH WEDNESDAY

This Christian event is prominently marked on the Island at our many Catholic churches and begins the official start of the Lenten season. Locally, Ash Wednesday also represents the end of the Carnival season.

### March 16 • 29th ARUBA INTERNATIONAL HALF MARATHON (21K)

International competitors participate in Aruba's longest road race, covering the length of the Island from San Nicolas to Oranjestad. The race begins at 5:30 a.m. Registration on Feb. 8th, 2014. Contact IBISA at Tel: (297) 582-4987 / Fax: (297) 583-6478 / Email: [ibisaaruba@gmail.com](mailto:ibisaaruba@gmail.com) or [juan.dake@aruba.gov.aw](mailto:juan.dake@aruba.gov.aw) for additional information or registration.

### March 18 • NATIONAL ANTHEM AND FLAG DAY

A strong sense of pride is displayed each year as Arubans celebrate their "Status Aparte" and Anthem and Flag Day. An impressive folkloric production marking the holiday is held each year at Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad. This official holiday also features many cultural events showcasing the local gastronomy of Aruba, as well as sporting events and organized games for both adults and kids around the Island.

### April 18 • GOOD FRIDAY Official holiday

### April 20-21 • EASTER SUNDAY AND EASTER MONDAY

Official holidays

### April 22 • EARTH DAY

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. Growing out of the first Earth Day, Earth Day Network works with over 22,000 partners in 192 countries to broaden, diversify, and mobilize the environmental movement. Here on Aruba, many resorts and businesses celebrate Earth Day with interactive events and activities to promote awareness.

### April 14-25 • 12th AHATA RECYCLED ART COMPETITION

This public awareness campaign for adults and kids promotes the collection and re use of old articles to create recycled art. Last day for registration is April 5. Contact AHATA at Tel: (297) 582-2607 / Fax: (297) 582-4202 / Email: [vanessa@ahata.com](mailto:vanessa@ahata.com).  
Exposition Venue: Cas di Cultura

### April 27 • 54th INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD RACE (10K)

Aruba's most popular running race draws over 200 competitors from countries including Aruba, Venezuela, Colombia, the Netherlands Antilles, the USA, and the Netherlands. The 10K event starts at 5:30 p.m. on L.G. Smith Blvd. and ends at the Marriott parking lot. Entry forms will be issued in February. Contact Vanessa Tromp at Tel: (297) 593-5801 / Email: [arruwac@gmail.com](mailto:arruwac@gmail.com) for additional information.

### April 27 • KING'S BIRTHDAY

An official government ceremony in honor of King Willem Alexander is followed by numerous sporting events and family-friendly celebrations. Sports competitions, kite-flying contests, and fun-filled activities are held at various sites, including community centers.

### May 1 • LABOR DAY Official holiday

### May 21-26 • ARUBA SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2014

Held on Memorial Day holiday weekend, the Aruba Soul Beach Music Festival is a star-studded, two-night concert series that has





featured such artists as Maze, Sean Paul, Chaka Khan, Wyclef Jean, India Arie, the Gap Band, Boyz II Men, Lauryn Hill, Nina Sky, Anthony Hamilton, Alicia Keys, Brian McKnight, Wayne Brady, Estelle, Jamie Fox, Etana, Robin Thicke, Common, Toni Braxton, MJ Blidge, Joe Thomas, Raheem DeVaughn, Jennifer Hudson, Christie Michele and Heads of State, R Kelly, LL Cool J, Ledisi, Melanie Fiona, Ne-yo, D'Angelo, Elle Varner, Tamia, Sinbad, and Damon Williams. Venue: Adjacent to Nikki Beach. Contact Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel: (297) 582-3777 / Fax: (297) 583-7403 or visit [www.aruba.com](http://www.aruba.com) / [www.soulbeach.net](http://www.soulbeach.net) for additional information.

**May 29 • ASCENSION DAY** Official holiday

**June 24 • DERA GAI (ST. JOHN'S DAY)**

Aruba's harvest festival is now a cultural celebration featuring traditional song and dance. The symbol of the rooster and bright yellow-and-red costumes are central to events held at various locations, including community centers. Tel: (297) 582-2185 / [www.gobierno.aw](http://www.gobierno.aw).

**June 29 • 28th ARUBA INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON**

International competitors participate in a triathlon comprised of a 1.5 km swim, 40 km bike race, and 10 km run. Beginners can test their endurance in the triathlon of a 750 km swim, 20 km bike, and 5 km run. Beginning at Eagle Beach, the event is planned on a safe and closed circuit. More than 100 athletes are expected to participate in this event hosted by the Aruba Triathlon Association. For registration and information contact Glenda Croes-Tromp at Tel: (297) 594-0067 / Email: [arubatriathlon@hotmail.com](mailto:arubatriathlon@hotmail.com) or [Glenda\\_croes@hotmail.com](mailto:Glenda_croes@hotmail.com) or visit [www.arubatriathlon.com](http://www.arubatriathlon.com).

**July • ARUBA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (AIFF)**

During the Aruba International Film Festival, Aruba is host to a brilliant cinematic brigade including actors, producers, and directors. This glittering event features glamorous red-carpet premieres, screenings of an eclectic collection of international and Caribbean films, and lively conversations with stars. Past luminaries include Richard Gere, Kim Cattrall, Jonathan Demme, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Maria Conchita Alonso, and Paul Verhoeven. AIFF not only brings visitors and press from around the world, but also

helps to develop and support local talent. Contact by email [info@arubafilm.com](mailto:info@arubafilm.com) or visit [www.aiff.aw](http://www.aiff.aw) for additional information.

**July 3-7 • 28th ANNUAL ARUBA HI-WINDS**

Aruba's trade winds provide the perfect conditions for the largest amateur windsurfing event in the Caribbean. Exciting windsurfing and kite boarding competitions in various categories are held off the beaches at the Fisherman's Huts at Hadicurari. There are five days of non-stop entertainment, beach parties, events, and activities. Contact the Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel: (297) 582-3777 / Fax: (297) 583-7403 or visit [www.aruba.com](http://www.aruba.com) / [www.aruba-hiwinds.org](http://www.aruba-hiwinds.org) for additional information.

**Aug. 15-17 • ARUBA REGATTA 2014**

This sailing event features fun, action, and competitions among international yachts, catamarans, Sunfish sailboats, and windsurfers during the day, combined with music, parties, and dinners at night. Contact the organizing committee at Tel: (297) 565-6887 / Email: [eric@aruba-regatta.com](mailto:eric@aruba-regatta.com) or visit [www.arubaregatta.com](http://www.arubaregatta.com) for registration and additional information.

**Aug. 21-25 • 20th ANNUAL ARUBA INTERNATIONAL PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Professional and amateur golfers team up in a two-day, 36-hole tournament featuring gifts, prizes, and special events. Contact Tierra Del Sol at Tel: (297) 586-7800 / Fax: (297) 586-4970 / Email: [adam.williamson@tierradelsol.com](mailto:adam.williamson@tierradelsol.com). More information can also be obtained through Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel: (297) 582-3777 / Fax: (297) 583-7403 / Email: [a.boekhoudt@aruba.com](mailto:a.boekhoudt@aruba.com).

**Aug. 29-Sept. 1 • ONE COOL SUMMER INTERNATIONAL DRAG RACE**

This exciting international drag-racing competition will take place at the Palo Marga International Raceway Park. Contact Lucho Werleman at Tel: (297) 593-4125 / Email: [luchotowing@hotmail.com](mailto:luchotowing@hotmail.com) or visit [www.draginaruba.com](http://www.draginaruba.com) for additional information.

**September • ELECTRIC FESTIVAL 2014**

This hip, two-day event features world-renowned DJs such as Chuckie, Erick Morillo, Begovic, and Nutbeatz and musical artists like Slash. Organized by GM Affairs in conjunction with the Aruba Tourism Authority, Amsterdam Dance Event, Eventpro, ID&T, and



Dirty Dutch. For additional information contact Davina Mansur at Cell: (297) 592-6965 / Email: [info@electricfestival.com](mailto:info@electricfestival.com) or visit [www.electricfestival.com](http://www.electricfestival.com). Venue: Beach adjacent to Nikki Beach

#### **September 1 • 34th TURIBANA TO SANTA CRUZ 10K RACE**

A unique way to experience an Aruban sunrise is during this open-road race that starts at 5:30 a.m. at Panaderia del Campo in Noord and finishes at the Betico Croes Sports Complex in Santa Cruz. Registration begins on August 20, 2013. Contact IBISA at Tel: (297) 582-4987 / Fax: (297) 583-6478 / Email: [ibisaaruba@gmail.com](mailto:ibisaaruba@gmail.com) for additional information or registration.

#### **September 12-13 • ARUBA FOOD, WINE & ART FESTIVAL 2013**

This annual two-day event begins with the popular Student Chef Competition, presented in an open-house format combined with international vintages and an exhibition of some of the Island's talented artists. The second evening marks the second annual Iron Chef & Iron Sommelier Competition, with the Island's premier chefs vying for top honors in an exciting production that combines entertainment, interesting vintages, and Aruba's dynamic culinary scene. Contact Justin Carson at Tel: (297) 526-44653 / Fax: (297) 586-3403 / Email: [justin.carson@westin.com](mailto:justin.carson@westin.com) for additional information. Venue: Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba

#### **September • 21st ANNUAL ARUBA REEF CARE PROJECT**

If you are in search of a great ecotourism opportunity, join more than 800 participants from both the local community and those visiting us from abroad for the Island's largest volunteer initiative. A cleanup of Aruba's most popular beaches and dive and snorkel sites helps raise awareness for a clean marine environment. Contact Mr. Castro Perez at Tel: (297) 740-0797 / Email: [castroeperez@gmail.com](mailto:castroeperez@gmail.com) for additional information.

#### **September 26-27 • 3rd ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE FOOD TRUCKS**

Experience Aruba's food-truck culture combined with live musical performances from local bands and deejays. Venue: Tropicana Aruba Resort & Casino

#### **October • INTERPASO 2014**

Interpaso in Aruba is a showdown of the best Paso Fino horses from Latin America and the Caribbean competing in different categories. Interpaso is organized by OCA, the Aruban Horse Riding Organization. A must-see if you enjoy Paso Fino show horses, horse riding, horse competitions, and an exciting, local ambiance! Contact Mr. Alex Cybul at Tel: (297) 594-2495 / Email: [ocaboard@ocaruba.com](mailto:ocaboard@ocaruba.com) for additional information.

#### **October 3-4 • 8TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL ARUBA 2014**

This annual festival ignites Aruba's music scene with an impressive lineup of international and local jazz, Latin, soul, and funk musicians at Renaissance Market Place. It is not only about music; the vibrating atmosphere, tantalizing food stands, and numerous bars make this an unforgettable, unique experience. Preceding the festival, there is a four-day warm-up held at smaller, intimate venues. Famous featured artists at past festivals include George Benson, Angie Stone, Eddie Palmieri, Marcus Miller, Isaac Delgado, Candy Dulfer, Raul Midon, Richard Bona, Izaline Calister, David Sanborn, Moon Baker, The Ploctones and Tango Extremo, Chakan Khan, Oscar d' Leon, Pete Philly, Randy Bracker, Giovanca, El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico, Jose James, and Willy Garcia. Contact Caribbean Sea Foundation at Tel: (297) 588-0211 / Email: [info@caribbeanseajazz.com](mailto:info@caribbeanseajazz.com) or visit [www.caribbeanseajazz.com](http://www.caribbeanseajazz.com) for additional information. Venue: Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad

#### **October 5 • 30TH FIRE PREVENTION 10K & 5K RUN**

Don't forget to pack your running shoes! This race is open to all local and visiting runners (and walkers!) and follows a circular route that begins and ends at the Fire House in Tanki Flip. The race begins at 4:00 p.m. Registration begins on September 24, 2013. Contact IBISA at Tel: (297) 582-4987 / Fax: (297) 583-6478 / Email: [ibisaaruba@gmail.com](mailto:ibisaaruba@gmail.com) for additional information or registration.

#### **October 12 • HALF IRON MAN ARUBA (10K)**

This highly competitive event, organized by the Aruba Triathlon





Association, is an intense swimming, biking, and running race through Aruba's breathtaking landscapes. For registration and information contact Glenda Croes-Tromp at Tel: (297) 594-0067 / Email: arubatriathlon@hotmail.com or Glenda\_croes@hotmail.com or visit [www.arubatriathlon.com](http://www.arubatriathlon.com).

#### Oct. 27-Nov. 2 • ARUBA INTERNATIONAL BIKE WEEK

Didn't bring your Harley with you? No worries—just watching hundreds of bikes parade around the Island is a remarkable sight to see! The annual international bike event attracts bikers from several countries who ship their motorcycles here to participate in the festivities. Contact Mr. Rudy Croes at Tel: (297) 593-5344 / Email: [croesrudy@gmail.com](mailto:croesrudy@gmail.com) or Mr. Nahar at Tel: (297) 593-0014 / Email: [ttriders.aruba@gmail.com](mailto:ttriders.aruba@gmail.com).

#### November 10 • 11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Sponsored by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association, this national cleanup day concentrates on areas near and along the coastline. Contact AHATA at Tel: (297) 582-2607 / Fax: (297) 582-4202 / Email: [vanessa@ahata.com](mailto:vanessa@ahata.com) for more information.

#### November 10-16 • DIVI ARUBA INTERNATIONAL BEACH-TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Aruba's international beach-tennis event is the premier tournament in the Caribbean. International beach-tennis pros and amateurs travel from around the world to compete in the prestigious tournament and take part in the festive beach-chic ambiance on gorgeous Eagle Beach. Contact Sjoerd de Vries at Tel: (297) 593-6512 or Aruba Tennis at Tel: (297) 583-7074 / Fax: (297) 588-4278 / Email: [sjoerd@tennisaruba.com](mailto:sjoerd@tennisaruba.com) or visit [www.arubabeachtennis.com](http://www.arubabeachtennis.com) for additional information.

#### December 5 • SAINT NICOLAS DAY

Aruba's children line the Oranjestad harbor for the ceremonious arrival by boat of "Sinterklaas" (Saint Nicolas), dressed in bishop's robes and accompanied by his "Zwarte Pieten" (helpers). For days before Sinterklaas's birthday on December 5, children leave out their shoes and treats for Sinterklaas's white horse in anticipation of his nighttime visits and gifts. Sinterklaas and his helpers appear at many daytime events throughout the Island.

**December 25 • CHRISTMAS** Official holiday

**December 26 • BOXING DAY** Official holiday

#### December 27 • DANDE FESTIVAL

In Aruba's biggest traditional musical event, more than 50 singers accompanied by typical musical groups present their original compositions and lyrics as well as the traditional Dande song. A Dande group is a troupe of traveling musicians brightening the New Year with a song bestowing blessings, goodwill, and prosperity. Venue: TBA at 8 p.m.

### Weekly Events

#### BONBINI FESTIVAL

Bonbini means "Welcome!" in Papiamentu, and this weekly folkloric music and dance festival is the perfect introduction to the warmth and hospitality of Aruba's people. The BonBini Festival takes place in downtown Oranjestad in the outdoor courtyard of Fort Zoutman, Aruba's oldest building. Catch the flavor of the Island, its history, people, music, and cuisine during this entertaining evening held every Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### CARUBBIAN FESTIVAL

The Carubbian Festival takes place in San Nicolas every Thursday night from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., showcasing the multicultural charms of Aruba's "Sunrise City." The center of activities is a stage area where the audience can relax and enjoy a taste of delicious Aruban and Caribbean cuisine and a parade of local entertainers. Closed to traffic, the main street is a pedestrian mall filled with colorful booths selling food, handicrafts, and souvenirs and promising fun activities for the whole family. Packages including round-trip transportation are sold at hotels.

Disclaimer: This Calendar of Events has been produced by the Aruba Tourism Authority to provide general information about events and activities taking place in Aruba during 2014. This information is subject to change without any notice. All efforts have been made to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information about each event at the time of printing. The Aruba Tourism Authority is not liable for any possible errors, omissions, or cancellations.

Visit Aruba's official website, [www.aruba.com](http://www.aruba.com), for the latest updates on festivals, events, and conferences, or contact the Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel: (297) 582-3777 / Fax: (297) 583-4702 / Email: [ata.aruba@aruba.com](mailto:ata.aruba@aruba.com) or [ata.pr@aruba.com](mailto:ata.pr@aruba.com).

A dirt path winds through a desert landscape at sunset. The path is bordered by a low wall of stones. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and casting long shadows. Saguaro cacti are visible in the background and foreground.

# Get Acquainted

with

Arikok National Park



## Arikok National Park



Are you open to an off-the-beaten-path experience while vacationing in Aruba? Are you game for some hiking or biking? Are you willing to rent a car for the day, maybe get up a little early as well? If so, we highly recommend a visit to Arikok National Park, whose desert-like, cactus-studded terrain couldn't be more different than the white-sand beaches and turquoise waters of the hotel area.

Sure, the park's newly paved roads make it easy to drive your way through the nature reserve in the comfort of air conditioning. And if you've been to the famed Natural Pool, which lies within the park, chances are you jeeped in with a tour, took a quick dip in the pool, and then jeeped right back out. But spending most of the time in the park inside a vehicle is not REALLY spending time within the park. To truly enjoy all the great things Arikok has to offer—the native flora and fauna, the rich geological diversity, and the preserved cultural heritage—you really need to get up close and personal with them, and this means leaving the confines of your vehicle and exploring by foot or bike.

Covering one-fifth of the Island, the park offers an endless number of walking/biking trails and sights—knowing where to start can be a bit daunting. So we've highlighted four excursions ideal for newbies. Before setting out on any of them, make sure you first stop in at the new visitor's center to pay the \$10 park entrance fee, pick up your park map, and gather any other information relevant to your excursion. And yeah, go ahead and leave your car in the parking lot and lace up those hiking shoes or gear up your bike—you'll thank us later!

### Cunucu Arikok Hike

Time: Between 1.5 and 2 hours for entire loop.

The Cunucu Arikok Trail is easy to navigate, making it ideal for families with kids. The park has gone to great lengths to make this tour appealing on many levels. Along the trail, local flora specimens are marked with informative wooden plaques. At the far end of the trail loop, a restored plantation (cunucu), including a small house rebuilt using traditional methods, tells the story of how Aruban farmers once worked and lived. A few benches in small clearings with plenty of

shade make perfect spots for a picnic lunch or snack.

As you make your way along the trail, lizards dart back and forth across the path in front of you. And make sure to keep your eyes peeled for birds, including the blue-tailed emerald hummingbird, the ruby-topaz hummingbird, and the brilliant-orange troupial. (Keep in mind that the earlier you visit Cunucu Arikok, the better. This is when the birds are most active and when night-blooming flowers may still have their blooms open. And don't forget your binoculars!) You'll also be acquainted with several interesting geological formations, including a hollowed-out rock that contains preserved Arawak Indian paintings as well as a small population of bats.



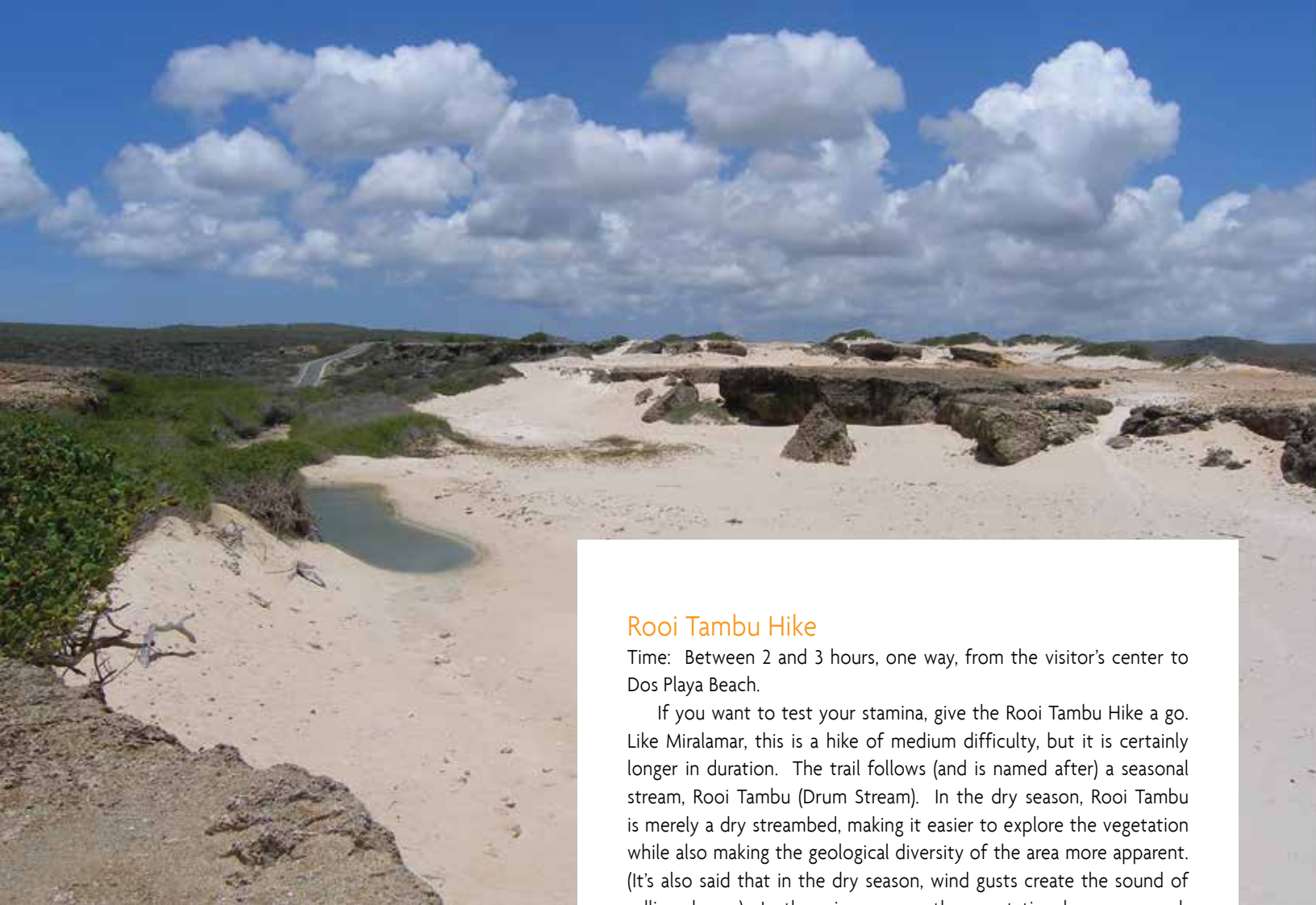
*Tip: When you pay your park entrance fee, spend an extra \$3 for the Cunucu Arikok brochure, which explains everything you'll see along the trail. We do suggest driving from the visitor's center to the small parking lot at Cunucu Arikok.*





*Rooi Prins*





### Rooi Tambu Hike

**Time:** Between 2 and 3 hours, one way, from the visitor's center to Dos Playa Beach.

If you want to test your stamina, give the Rooi Tambu Hike a go. Like Miralamar, this is a hike of medium difficulty, but it is certainly longer in duration. The trail follows (and is named after) a seasonal stream, Rooi Tambu (Drum Stream). In the dry season, Rooi Tambu is merely a dry streambed, making it easier to explore the vegetation while also making the geological diversity of the area more apparent. (It's also said that in the dry season, wind gusts create the sound of rolling drums.) In the rainy season, the vegetation becomes much greener, and if there's significant rainfall, a proper stream will form, maybe even with some fish.

At a section along the trail, hills rise up on both sides for a dramatic effect. Also of interest is the transition in the environment as you head progressively closer to the sea: the arid surroundings (especially in the dry season), old and gnarled watapana trees, aloe, cacti, and thick brush eventually give way to coastal breezes, sandy soil, mangroves, and seagrape trees.

At the end of the trail, you'll be rewarded with Dos Playa—a gorgeous white-sand cove popular among local surfers. While swimming isn't encouraged here due to the strong waves and undercurrent, a bit of shallow wading is safe enough and will feel pretty refreshing after the hike. A picnic under the seagrape trees would also be decidedly ideal.

After a rest, hikers can return along the same trail back to the visitor's center. Be aware that if you hike both ways, you will be committing to anywhere between four and six hours. A one-way hike is possible if your group has two vehicles—before beginning the hike from the visitor's center, just drop one of the cars off at Dos Playa for the return trip. Whether you hike one way or both ways, though, make sure to bring lots of water, a few snacks, a protective hat, and sunblock.









## Fontein & Quadirikiri Caves Biking Excursion

Time: 30–40 minutes, one way (and taking it easy), from the visitor's center to caves.

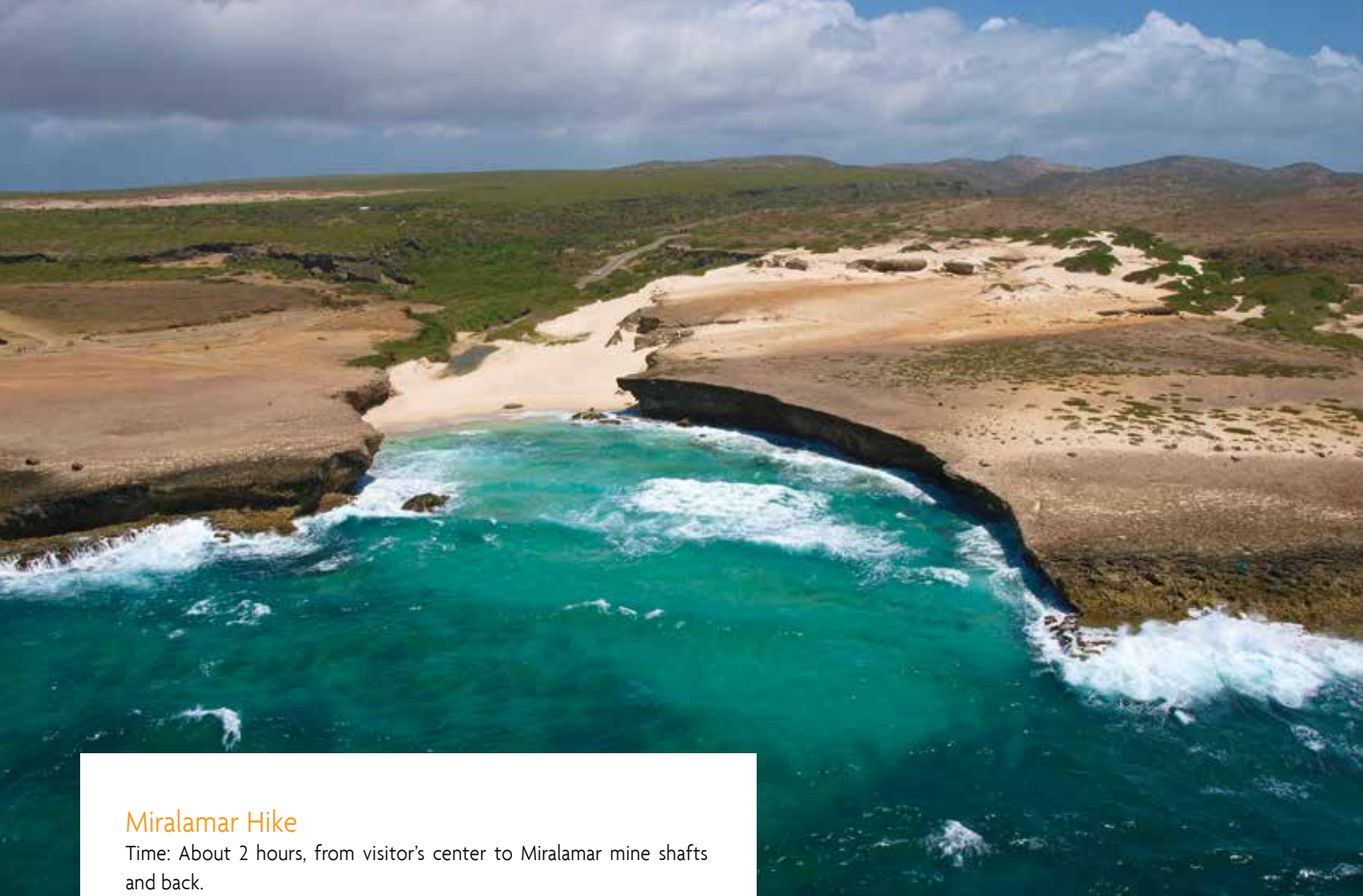
Ready to get that heart pumping? Does a biking-and-spelunking combo sound enticing? This great excursion features two of the park's caves, and the best way to get there is by bike. You'll start at the visitor's center, taking the paved road (Northern Loop) into the park. After just a bit, you'll reach a gravel path on your right. Take this gravel path (Southern Loop) through the hilly desert landscape all the way to the caves.

A ranger is stationed at Fontein Cave to provide an explanation of this geological attraction. The small cave is known for the Arawak Indian drawings on the walls and roof. Stalagmite and stalactite formations and some local bats are also of interest.

Once you've had your fill of Fontein, hop back onto your bike for a short coastal ride to Quadirikiri. This cave is notable for its two large chambers as well as the sunlight that spills into the cave from holes in

the ceiling. Quadirikiri is also a very important nesting site for bats. (Please note that both Fontein and Quadirikiri Caves are conservation sites, and all visitors are required to respect the natural habitat of the bats living and breeding there. This means entering the caves with caution, not smoking or eating within the caves, being cautious with the use of flashlights, and refraining from entering the caves in large groups without the assistance of park staff. Of course, the best way to enter the caves is with the assistance of a ranger.)

This excursion finishes up with the return to the visitor's center by way of the Southern Loop. Keep in mind, this is a challenging excursion by bike and requires you to be decently fit. If you would really like to see the caves but don't feel like biking it the whole way, take the Northern Loop by car to its end (about 25 minutes) and then take the gravel path by bike (or by foot) to the caves.



## Miralamar Hike

Time: About 2 hours, from visitor's center to Miralamar mine shafts and back.

For a slightly more difficult hike (medium level), try the Miralamar excursion. Starting out at the visitor's center, you will make your way along a trail from which you can observe the arid landscape, native vegetation, and different rock types. Keep an eye out for birds (maybe you'll spot a crested caracara scavenging for carrion), lizards (like the bright-turquoise kododo, indigenous to Aruba), snakes (most likely a harmless cat-eyed snake, locally known as the santanero), and goats (which roam into the park from neighboring farms). Soon you'll be rewarded with a spectacular view encompassing both coasts. (Miralamar means "look at the ocean.") There's a bench nearby for a rest with a view.

Moving on, you'll reach the historical part of this excursion: mine shafts that hearken back to Aruba's "gold rush" of the nineteenth century. Gold and other minerals were mined from these shafts before they were abandoned in 1916. For a bit more of the past, you could continue to Masiduri, which features the remains of an old cultivation site where different fruit and eucalyptus trees were grown.

When you're ready to finish up your hike, return along the same trail back to the visitor's center. If you're not in a hurry—and we hope you're not...you're in Aruba, after all!—we suggest making a pit stop at the aforementioned bench for a picnic lunch.







*Aruba's Flora and Fauna*



*Arikok National Park Visitor's Center*







### A few important notes

1. The park is open Monday through Sunday, from 8 am to 4 pm. Ticket sales, however, end at 3:30 pm.

2. Arikok National Park is a conservation park, so it is important to respect the wildlife and natural state of the park. This means no littering, no removing of anything from the park, no disturbing of animals, and no driving on the dunes and beaches.

3. For all excursions, you should bring a full-coverage hat, protective clothing, sturdy shoes, plenty of water, and sunblock. If you do plan to drive into the park, it's best that you bring a vehicle with four-wheel drive. Also, don't forget to bring a packed lunch so you can enjoy a picnic in the park!

4. If you'd like a park ranger to accompany you on any of the excursions in the park, you simply need to call at least one day in advance to book a ranger. There is no additional cost for hiring a ranger beyond the park entrance fee. The park only asks that your group contain at least five people. Call Emilene Boekhoudt at 585-1234 to book a ranger in advance.

### Directions to the park

From the hotel area, take L.G. Smith Blvd. (the main highway) past the airport and all the way to the first light you reach. At the light, take a left and continue all the way into the heart of Santa Cruz. When you reach the round-about, continue straight through it, and then make your first right (Mundo Nobo grocery store should be on the corner). Follow signs for Arikok National Park. If you pass a yellow building on the left called Urataka Center, then you're on the right road. Eventually you'll reach a stone-paved road which will lead you to the park's visitor's center. ■

Bike rentals:

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Cell: +297-741-2991



PARKE NACIONAL  
**ARIKOK**  
A · R · U · B · A

- ★ Point of interest
- 🏖️ Recreational area
- 🏛️ Historical site
- 🎨 Indian drawings
- 🕒 Cave
- 🏹 Goldmine
- 👁️ Viewpoint
- 🥾 Hiking site
- 🛣️ Paved road
- 🛤️ Gravel road
- 👣 Hiking trail
- 🚙 4x4 vehicles

**Santa Cruz**

San Fuego Entrance

PARK CENTER

Northern Loop

Dunes

Boca Prins

San Nicolas & Baby Beach

CunucujArikok  
Sero Arikok  
185m (606ft)

Miralamar

Sero Cabal  
169m (554ft)

Sero Jamanota  
188m (617ft)

Masiduri

Southern Loop

Quadirikiri Cave

Vader Piet Entrance

**PARKE NACIONAL  
ARIKOK**

CARIBBEAN SEA



Conchi (Natural Pool)

Dos Playa

Miralamar

Masiduri

Miralamar

Miralamar

Miralamar

### Arikok National Park Rules

Please, respect the following rules:

- A valid conservation ticket is required.
- Visitors are only admitted during opening hours (08:00-17:00). Ticket sale until 15:00
- Stay on Park roads and use only indicated parking facilities.
- No driving on dunes and beaches.
- Do not bring any animals or plants into the National Park.
- Do not litter. Deposit waste in the bins or take it along.
- Do not damage or remove anything (animals, plants, rocks, soil, etc.).
- Do not disturb, scare off/or hunt animals.
- Weapons are not allowed in the National Park.
- Respect Park Authority, signs and indications.
- The speed limit is 20km/h.
- Camping, barbecuing and fishing are only allowed with a Park Authority permit.
- Vehicles are subject to search upon entering or exiting the National Park.





PARKE NACIONAL  
**ARIKOK**  
A-R-U-B-A

# Where nature meets culture



**Arikok National Park is a must see attraction if you want to experience Aruba's natural beauty at its best. This beautiful national park comprises of almost 20 % of the island.**

**Enjoy gorgeous vistas of Aruba's rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, a breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna. The park is ideal for activities such as hiking, mountain biking, bird watching and photography.**

**Arikok National Park offers unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored on your own, or during guided tours.**

## Highlights Include

- Cunucu Arikok:** Agricultural site and traditional adobe house
- Natural Pool (conchi):** Remote, highly popular attraction on the island
- Caves:** Featuring historic Indian drawings, bats and stalactites
- Secluded beaches:** Dos Playa, Daimari, Boca Prins
- Highest hilltops/viewpoints of the island:** Arikok and Jamanota

By visiting Arikok National Park you personally contribute to Aruba's nature and cultural conservation.

## Conservation Fee

Adults: \$10 - Children up to 17 years of age: FREE  
Guided hiking tours available (15 people max) on appointment only.  
Reservations needed in advance for all guided tours.

## Contact Information

San Fuego 70 Sta. Cruz.  
Opening hours: Mon – Sun 8:00 AM – 4 PM. Ticket sales until 3:30 PM.  
Tel: (+297) 5851234. E-mail: [info@arubanationalpark.org](mailto:info@arubanationalpark.org)

[www.arubanationalpark.org](http://www.arubanationalpark.org)

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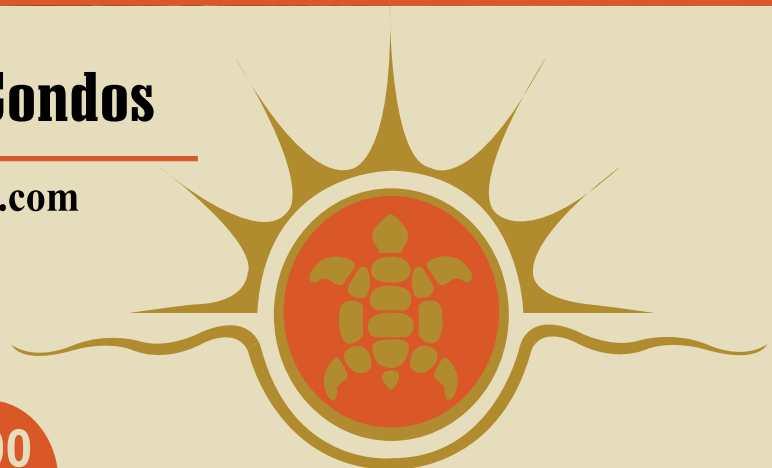
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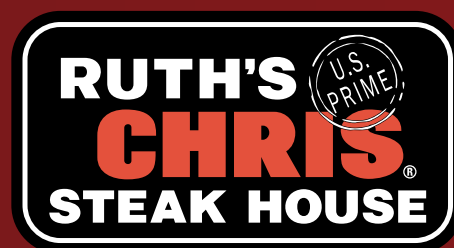


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# Locally Farmed Foods

## Reemerge in Island Cuisine

Agriculture, fisheries, and forestry have long provided the main source of livelihood for the populations of small island destinations. Tourists to these islands often seek out culinary experiences that utilize local foods in dishes as a way of embracing local culture and traditions to enhance their overall vacations. But over the last few decades, changes in food production and resourcing have made this dining experience harder to come by.

For Aruba, the challenges of farming in a semiarid desert climate and virtually nutrient-free dirt have dissuaded most from even attempting to grow produce of any kind, with the bulk of our consumables coming from South America and the United States. Today, a few ambitious, creative, and forward-thinking individuals are taking the baby steps that will hopefully one day lead to local farmers providing the lion's share of our produce, and even dairy and meats.

### Farming the Future

The Island has always had adventurous gardeners producing herbs, our local Madame Jeanette pepper, and even a local variety of spinach called kalalu, but the first islander to take the business of agriculture into the 21st century and grow it to an impressive scale is Ari Lichtenstein, founder of Nos Cunucu – The Land Farm.

With the guidance of Gil Rothem, an Israeli agronomy authority, Ari began constructing his land farm in 2008 using hydroponic systems for non-soil-based agriculture (this system has been successful in places like Israel, Thailand, Burma, and Saudi Arabia).

Ari Lichtenstein



Located in the “cunucu” (countryside) of Aruba in an area known as Shete, the farm is comprised of five 1,000-square-foot greenhouses, six green tunnels, and one nursery, each inhabited by tomatoes, cucumbers, various microgreens and lettuces, or peppers. The farm operates on alternative energy sources, like windmills that generate electricity used to pump water from an underground rainwater-collection tank.

Today, additional commercial farms embracing hydroponic technology have cropped up on the Island, contributing to the local sourcing efforts of Aruba's grocery stores and restaurants.



Executive Chef Vincent Pelligrini,  
Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort

## Taking the Initiative

University of Aruba's Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies initiated a series of events titled Chanita ta di Fiesta, in cooperation with various hotels and restaurants in the community, as a way of showcasing and encouraging commitment to helping local farmers and the economy while at the same time reducing the Island's reliance on imported food. "Chanita" is an Aruban folk song about a woman who sells her local delicacies every day in the town of Oranjestad, and it symbolizes the goal of these events to revive island tradition and heritage through locally produced dishes. During the Chanita ta di Fiesta events, invited guests and fellow food and beverage professionals enjoy dishes made with products sourced from local farmers in an effort to create awareness within the Island's food and beverage industry.

The Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort hosted the first of these Chanita ta di Fiesta events in 2012. The goal of the event synergized with a major goal of Hyatt hotels and resorts worldwide, which pursue locally produced foods through the Hyatt's Food, Thoughtfully Sourced, Carefully Served program. In early 2013, Hyatt debuted the new Mexicado restaurant, as well as a renovation to its flagship restaurant, Ruinas del Mar. The new menus in both restaurants were mindfully created to allow for sourcing as many fresh, locally farmed ingredients as possible. (continued on page 46)



Ruinas del Mar's Classic Duo



Mexicado's A la Veracruzano



## Farming the Sea

While the business of agriculture is just beginning to come into its own on the Island, Aruba's local fishermen have always brought food from the sea to our tables at home.

In the quiet fishing community of Savaneta, the Bisslick family has parlayed the love for the sea and fishing into one of the Island's most popular local hangouts. Some 35 years ago, Iki Bisslick took a vacant waterfront property in his hometown of Savaneta and built a humble docking area for his and a few fellow fishermen friends' boats, including an area to clean their fish. After a day at sea, those fishermen would gather to tell their fish tales over a few cold ones at this little makeshift marina, known as Zeerovers. Little by little, more fishermen came to dock their boats and clean their fish, joined by family and friends who came by to admire the catches of the day over a beer or two, and buy the freshest of fresh fish to take home for dinner.

"It was only natural that with cold beers and fresh fish came the idea to cook some of it right here," explains Iki, referring to when Zeerovers began hosting the occasional fish fry for the community to enjoy. Word of mouth spread throughout the Island, and Zeerovers found itself becoming a full-fledged business by 1997.

Iki credits the support of his family for the continued growth of Zeerovers. Sisters Lola and Rose were by his side along the way, and to this day they can still be found behind the bar running the register. Iki claims, "Family is everything—I wouldn't trust Zeerovers to anyone but my family." These days, you can find a slew of cousins and other family members pitching in—especially now that the kitchen serves baskets of fresh fish, shrimp, and local side dishes Tuesday through Sunday—and Iki's sons, Eric Jr. and Jean Pierre, jump into the mix when home from studying in Holland.

Despite the growing popularity of Zeerovers, Iki has resisted straying from his simple concept—local fishermen's colorfully painted boats still reside there; the day's harvest from the sea is still being cleaned in the pit right next to the unpretentious, no-frills dining area; and guaranteed to never change is a Bisslick on the premises, keeping watch over the family biz!







White Modern Cuisine's Vegetable Salad, with locally sourced edible flowers from Frank Kelly's Taki Greens



White Modern Cuisine's Dushi di Mondì, made with local watermelon from Tribu Organic Farm and Aruban basil from Frank Kelly at Taki Greens

White Modern Cuisine restaurant hosted the second installment of Chinata ta di Fiesta. Executive Chef Urvin Croes is at the helm of this chef-owned restaurant, and he is revered for his use of locally farmed foods—including vegetables, microgreens, and edible flowers—that allow guests to enjoy traditional local dishes transformed into modern, sophisticated versions. “We want our menu to be an inspiration of local and Caribbean ingredients and dishes,” the chef says.

It's not just restaurants that offer locally farmed foods; many grocery stores carry locally farmed produce, eggs, and even goat's milk and cheese. Santa Rosa, a facility run by the Island's Department of Agriculture, Husbandry, and Fisheries, holds Santa Rosa Market Day once a month, showcasing and promoting all things homegrown—from herbs, fruits, and vegetables to livestock, locally caught seafood, and prepared local cuisine.

---

## The Future

Even with modern technology, farming in a climate like Aruba still presents challenges—economically procuring water to farm with being one of the greatest challenges. Local farmers and the government are still navigating these obstacles, but fortunately the perseverance of those who passionately believe in transforming Aruba into an island self-sufficient in locally farmed food has allowed for continued growth. ■



Executive Chef Urvin Croes, White Modern Cuisine



## Foraging for Flavor

Preparing cuisine with flowers may be one of the latest food trends, but this “trend” has been “trending” for thousands of years and has consistently remained a part of regional Asian, European, and Middle Eastern food. Today, many chefs are favoring flavoring and garnishing with edible flowers. Here in Aruba, local forager Frank Kelly is sharing his knowledge of local edible flowers and collaborating with chefs to integrate locally sourced flowers into cuisine.

Although Frank does grow some flowers and microgreens at home, he favors foraging Aruba’s landscape. “My grandfather used to go out and collect coconuts for my grandmother, who would make sweets and coconut oil from them...and in Colombia, where one side of my family is from, it is a daily part of life to live from the land,” shares Frank when asked about how his passion for foraging for edible flowers developed.

Frank has turned this passion into a small business, Taki Greens, and although he works in banking by day, late afternoons and weekends are spent tending his flowers and walking Aruba’s cunucu and seashore in search of flowers and greens to share with chefs like White Modern Cuisine’s Urvin Croes. “I think enjoying locally sourced flowers is a great way to experience Aruba in a truly authentic and unique way,” says Frank.

Some of the flowers growing locally in the wild and in many Aruban gardens include:

**Flamboyant:** This is a reddish-orange blossom with a citrusy flavor.

**Frangipani:** This blossom is very aromatic, complements desserts, and can handle temperatures up to 500 degrees, making it easy for chefs to work with.

**Moringa:** Similar to an orchid at first glance, this white-and-yellow bloom yields a slight peppery flavor.

**Mata di seda:** Scientifically classified as Apocynaceae, these petite purple flowers have a delicate, mildly aromatic sweetness.

**Banana di rif:** Known commonly as sea purslane, this creeping seaside plant imparts a natural saltiness and is great with poached seafood.

**Koko robona:** Found along our seaside and near dunes, this shrub also imparts a subtle saltiness to uncomplicated seafood preparations.



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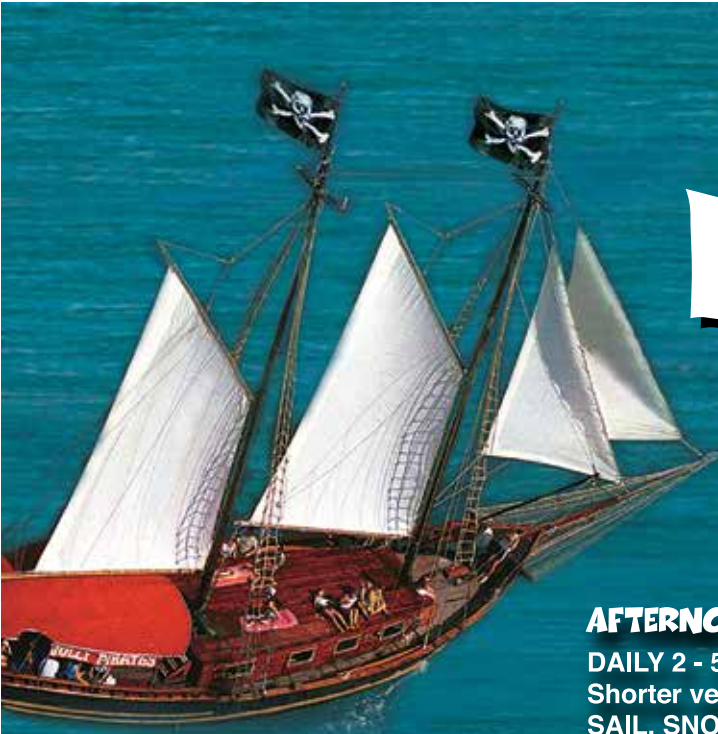
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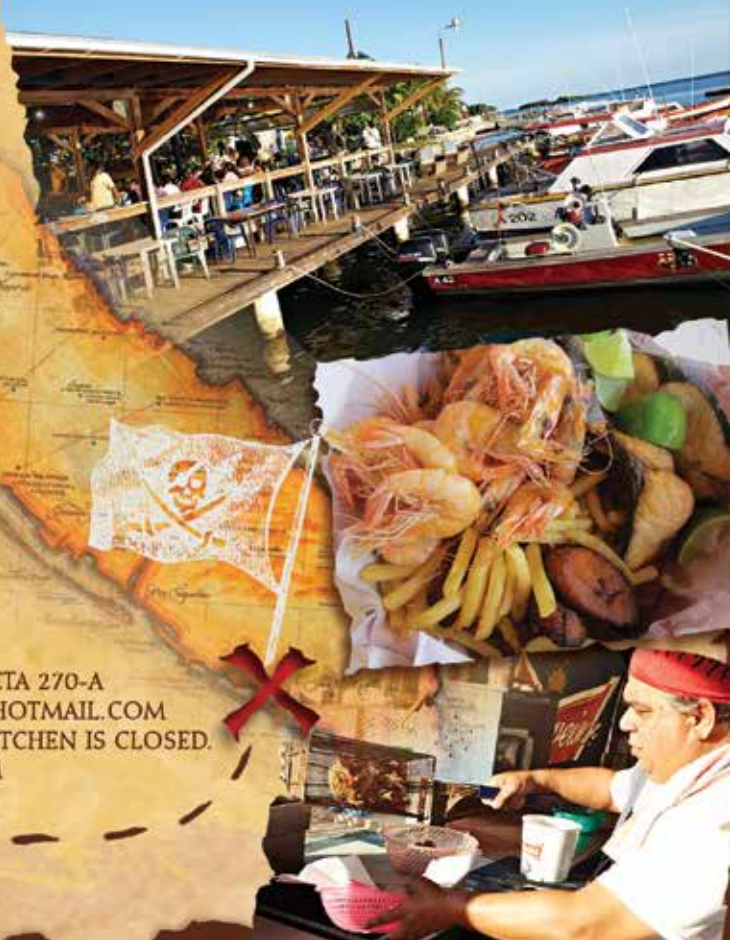
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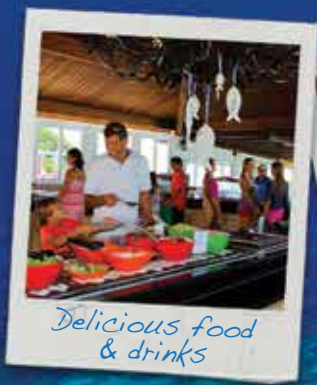
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*I'm waking up with a bizarre array of images flickering in and out of my consciousness like an old, scratchy film reel. It's surreal—I see images of myself getting a tattoo. I quickly jump up and run to the bathroom mirror—phew, no tattoos. The next film clip running in my head shows me that at some point last evening, I was dancing on top of a bar with girls in pink rhinestone cowboy hats... next, a group of us are gathered around a piano singing "New York, New York"... then, I'm adorned in a fancy headpiece, sandwiched between a guy named Fred from Boston and Claudine from Baltimore in what looks like a Carnival party train... and wait, is that Michael Jackson on the dance floor? I feel like Alice returning from a night in Wonderland, but instead of the Mad Hatter presiding over my adventures, it's this crazy, maraca-shaking lady called Mama. And then it all comes rushing back to me. No, I am not Alice and I didn't fall down the rabbit hole. I spent a night on the Kukoo Kuuuku Party Bus!*

Words & Images by Tina Causey-Bislick







In Aruba, we often go on a “paranda”—our version of barhopping. We gather friends together and caravan around the Island, hitting up local bars that are a little off the beaten, touristy path. For vacationers that don’t have locals to paranda with, the Kukoo Kunuku is the way to go! No pondering over road maps, no worrying over who has to be the designated driver—the crew on the Kukoo Kunuku has the entire six-hour evening planned out for you, picking you up right at your hotel and dropping you back off at midnight (now, how you make it up to your room after you are dropped off is up to you!).

Although the agenda doesn’t vary much, every night on the Kukoo Kunuku is as unique as its passengers for the evening. On the evening I joined in, our menagerie included a couple celebrating their anniversary, a group of rowdy Aruba regulars that have been coming to the Island for three generations and call themselves “The Little Rascals,” a trio of lovely single ladies, a few honeymooners, and even some locals—it was a great mix, with shots and maracas as the glue that bonded us all.

### First Stop: Arashi Beach

The evening started off innocently enough at one of the popular local beaches on the Island, located just below the California Lighthouse. Champagne on ice was waiting for us upon our arrival, and on cue we caught the sun setting into the sea. We all gathered for a group picture, and my only regret is not capturing this same group at the end of the night for an “after” picture...then again, we are all probably better off not seeing that “after” shot of ourselves!





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## Second Stop: Fermin's Bar

This is what I love about this tour—our visitors to the Island get a chance to see parts of the “real” Aruba and experience bars and nightlife outside the hotel area. Fermin's, located in Noord (about ten minutes from the hotel areas), is a popular watering hole where Friday-night happy hour draws in anyone from politicians and bankers to fishermen and windsurfers. Weekends attract the barbecue crowd that comes for the Aruban-style ribs and cold beers after a day on the beach.

The night we stopped in, a lineup of sexy ladies greeted us with complimentary “Fermin's Fantasy” shots, shifting the evening into high gear.

## Third Stop: Residencia Sylvia for dinner

I have lived on the Island for 14 years, but never knew about this place. It's the private home of Mr. Atan Lee, the former head of protocol for Aruba, and dinner is served in the back garden of the home amongst lush tropical landscaping and a pool. The timing was perfect—we were all getting hungry and in need of tempering the alcohol with some food in our tummies. Dinner was simple but tasty (chicken breast in a local creole sauce with rice and veggies). And remember that tattoo I was so worried about? This is where it happened—a temporary one, that is. Two artists were on hand to body paint just about anything one could want, and several in our group happily offered up their skin as canvasses.

Refueled and recharged, off we went to continue our parada.







#### Fourth Stop: Soprano's Piano Bar

This was the only stop that was in the hotel district, but there was certainly no shortage of locals joining in on the fun ignited by a multi-talented entertainer who likes to tickle the funny bone as well as the ivories. Requests were pouring in, and the gang had a great time singing along.

The bar offers inside and alfresco lounge seating, and bartender Thesee makes great martinis. Several in our group were already making plans to walk over from their hotel the following evening.





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## Fifth Stop: La Ronda

Located on a small side street in Oranjestad, this bar is a favorite of local fans of Major League Baseball and soccer. Upon first inspection, it's a no-frills, dark and cavernous place, with locals lined up at the bar, glued to the television watching their favorite players. (That evening, they were cheering on their hometown boy, Xander Bogaerts, playing for the Boston Red Sox in the World Series.) But Arubans are multi-taskers, especially when it comes to having fun, and (cue the dance music) upon our arrival, many jumped up to show us all how to do some of the popular Carnival dances—they even had Carnival headpieces for us to wear!

At one point, I feared I had had one too many shots when the song "Beat It" was accompanied by a Michael Jackson lookalike performer!

## Last Stop: U Wanna Beer

In the heart of downtown, we finished our paranda at U Wanna Beer. Did we want a beer? Heck, why not!!? If you were not dancing already, you were by now—on the dance floor, on the bar, in the bathroom. We were at that point where anything goes, including a group of guys from our bus—from 20-somethings to 60-somethings—doing the YMCA with Mama on top of the bar while their wives, girlfriends, and buddies captured plenty of digital material (great for potential bribery and blackmail if ever needed one day!).

At the stroke of midnight, it was time to head home. Although we all shook our maracas a little less loudly, everyone was still pumped from our six-hour adventure. One by one, we said goodbye to our paranda pals as they crawled off the bus and back to their hotel rooms. ■



*Kukoo Kunuku has two versions of this tour: the six-hour version that we enjoyed, which includes dinner (in addition to the bars visited on our night, the Kukoo Kunuku visits numerous local bars, and the schedule and bar stops do vary from night to night), and the Pub Krawl version, which is strictly barhopping and a little shorter in duration.*

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# Locals Love It!



## Arubianas Flip-Flops

Flip-flops are a wardrobe staple for most islanders, and the Arubianas version, designed locally and depicting images like the Aruban flag and local wildlife, are pounding the beaches and pavement everywhere here. You can find them in many island gift shops.

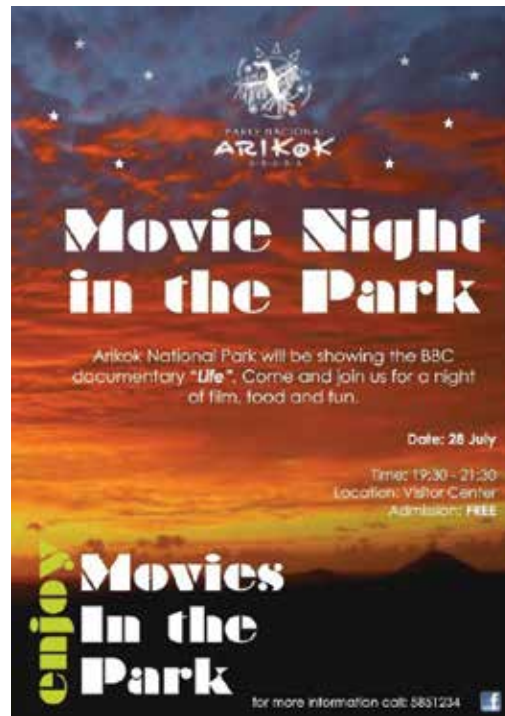
## Sunday Brunch at Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort

It's a Sunday institution and the Island's longest-running brunch tradition set in the gorgeous indoor and alfresco environment of Ruinas del Mar and Mexicado restaurants. Enjoy an endless array of brunch classics and specialties, washed down with bottomless mimosas!



## Pastechis from Pastechi House

Pastechis are a local snack, similar to empanadas. Dough is stuffed with Gouda cheese or a meat mixture and deep-fried or baked. Although they are sold all over the Island, a favorite vendor is Pastechi House, located on Mainstreet.



## Movies in the Park at Arikok National Park

Once a month, our national park hosts a free movie night outdoors by the visitor's center, usually featuring films about nature.





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## Tuna Tartar from Ginger New Asian Flavors at Alhambra Shops & Casino

Marinated ahi tuna is served with fresh avocado and wasabi mayonnaise—we cannot get enough!



## Essoville Rum Shop in San Nicolas

Located on the southern end of the Island in San Nicolas, this absolutely no-frills walk-up bar serves the coldest (and cheapest) beer on the Island. Once frequented by refinery workers, the bar still maintains a steady flow of San Nicolas regulars and is a favorite among kite surfers looking to quench their thirst after an afternoon on the water at nearby Boca Grandi.

## Sundays at Moomba Beach Bar

Live bands play on Sunday afternoon, and as the sun goes down and the moon and stars come out, local deejays keep the beach pumping and the locals dancing. Vacationers on the Island are always welcome to join the party!



## Mangel Halto

One of the favorite local beaches is Mangel Halto, tucked along the western coast of the Island in the area of Pos Chikito. The beach is named for the dense network of mangrove trees that make their home here, providing plenty of shade for afternoon picnics. A narrow clearing in the mangroves leads into an irresistibly inviting expanse of shallow aquamarine water, made remarkably placid by the protective barrier reef further out.





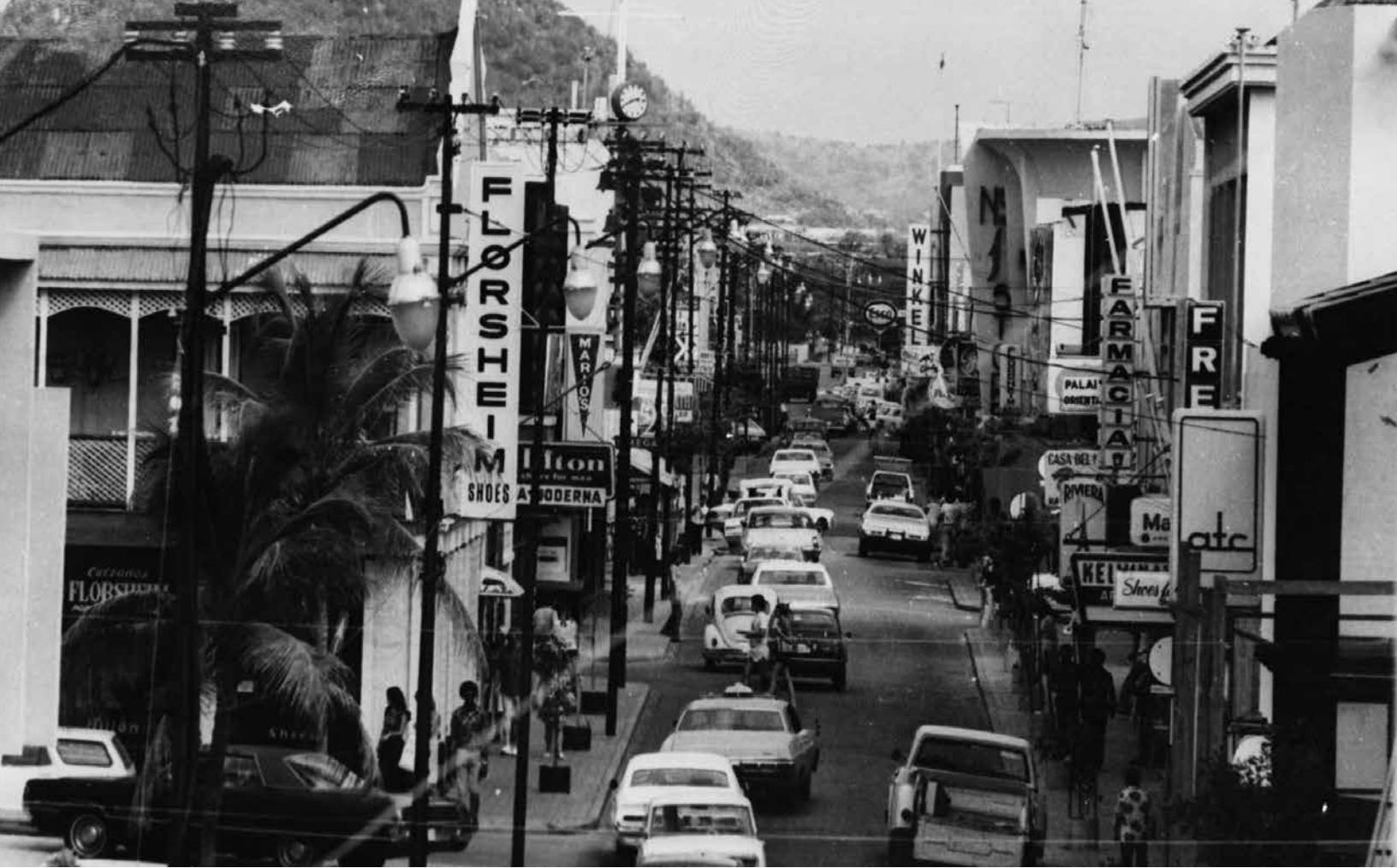
Government *of* Aruba



## Aruba presents its newly refurbished and extended government complex

In 2009, the Aruban government undertook an ambitious project to revitalize the island's capital, Oranjestad. Part of this project was to modernize, and extend its central legislative complex. The unique design of the new extension was inspired by the cocolishi shell, the beautiful Queen Conch found in our waters. Four years later, in November 2013, the addition is fully functional, accommodating the ministers and their supporting staff. Lit up at night in many different colors, it symbolizes Aruba's colorful culture.







# The Evolution of Oranjestad

Oranjestad

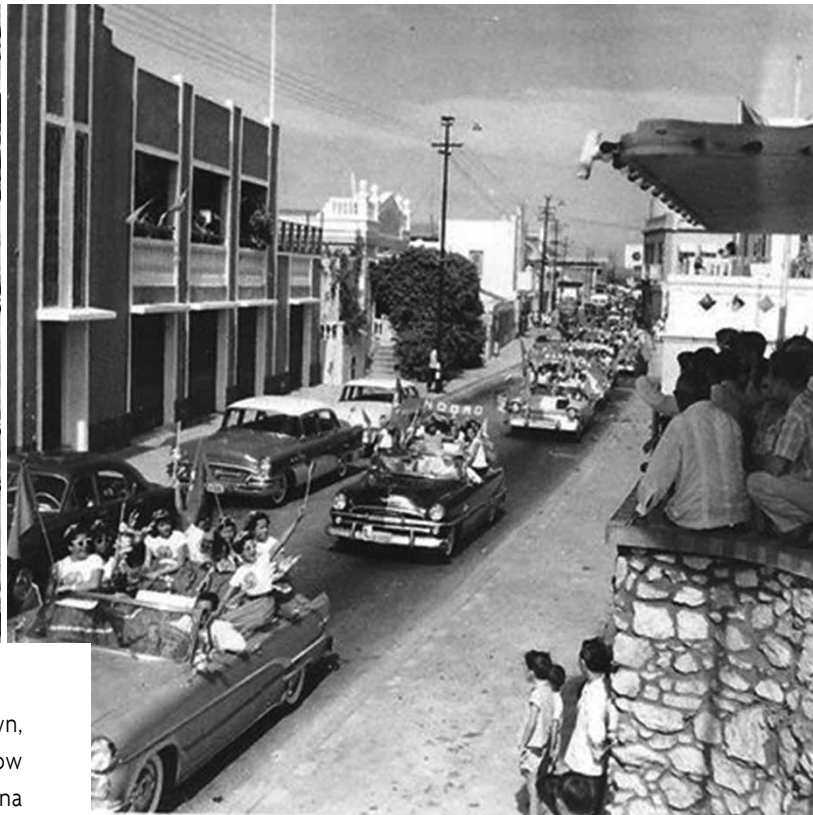


Once upon a time on a Saturday afternoon, mom, dad, and the kids, all dressed to the nines, piled into their Ford Galaxie and headed to “playa.” Playa—the Aruban term for downtown—was the place to shop, dine, see and be seen, and catch up with fellow islanders.

Downtown-Oranjestad streets, in particular Mainstreet (known then as Nassaustraat), bustled with activity. Dad needs a new set of wrenches? Brenchie’s Hardware Store was a gathering place for weekend handymen. New Sunday dresses for mom and daughter were most certainly purchased from La Linda, the Island’s big department store, and every young boy could be found gazing at window displays of the latest erector set or model train. Lunch was enjoyed at places such as Harsveld Bakery & De Dissel lunchroom. Nights out on the town were relished at the harbor’s floating restaurant, Bali, or the Trocadero.

But as time passed and tourism flourished, areas like Mainstreet were competing with Palm Beach and its proximity to tourist dollars. Retailers and restaurateurs began positioning themselves in the heart of the tourist district. And while locals held on and remained loyal to their custom of Mainstreet patronage for many years, eventually a lack of investment and general upkeep in the area deterred many of them as well.





The harbor area and L.G. Smith Boulevard held their own, thanks to investments by Eduardo de Veer in two large hotels (now the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and Renaissance Marina Tower) and an indoor shopping venue attracting international high-end retailers, such as Gucci, Rolex, Louis Vuitton, and Cartier. The neighboring Renaissance Marketplace—an alfresco venue with dining, shopping, a casino, and the Island’s first cinema complex—and the iconic Royal Plaza—with its interesting blend of Dutch and Caribbean architecture conceived by the Lichtenstein family—also lured locals and tourists to the area. But a disconnect between this harbor/marina area and the Mainstreet district discouraged visitors from discovering the charms and historic architecture of the latter area.

But all that is changing. A government initiative to revamp the Mainstreet district is bringing new life to this precious slice of Aruban culture and tradition. As the saying goes, no pain, no gain, and as any local can attest, the journey to the rebirth of the area has not been easy. I count myself among the many who have had a hard time seeing the “vision,” my vision blurred by the aggravating bumper-to-bumper traffic we have all endured for the past two years while these backstreets have been dug up. Trooping through muddy construction zones while trying to shop was a major hassle. And I certainly did not envy any of the retailers trying to work around this mess (to put it mildly) on a daily basis.







There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and I was shown the way under the guidance of Minister Benny Sevinger, from the Ministry of Integration, Infrastructure, and Environment, and his “infra team.” My first question: Why oh why did the streets have to be dug up to install the rails for a streetcar? Why not go the easier and cheaper route and just buy a couple of those buses designed to look like a streetcar? The answer: In short, this is a long game we are playing, an investment in the future of downtown. The streetcar line, which is the first in the Caribbean, is a permanent feature; buses can break down and go away, the investment lost forever. Additionally, while putting in the infrastructure for the tram, all other government departments chimed in with upgrades to telecommunications and power lines, enabling all improvements to be part of a large, easily accessible underground tube, with the streetcar line running above. It was a historic opportunity to do it all in one shot. The streetcar line, designed by San Francisco-based company TIG/Modern Street Railways, is operated using green technology—powered by battery and charged by wind and solar energy—and is in line with our government’s initiative that hopes to have Aruba transition to 100% renewable energy by 2020.





The streetcar line is the key—the main artery to connect to the heart of downtown. Oranjestad will have a vertical and a horizontal loop. The horizontal loop will lead visitors from the Plaza Paardenbaai at the cruise-ship terminal to the Plaza Museum, then along Mainstreet to the new Plaza Nikki Habibe, and back to Plaza Daniel Leo and Havenstraat. This loop offers various interesting cultural-discovery and shopping opportunities to visitors, who can hop on and off at seven smartly designated stops. The vertical corridor links the Central Post Office, the University of Aruba, and the San Francisco Church with the refreshed courthouse buildings and the Mainstreet, flowing into Plaza Padu and the seat of our government in the newly expanded City Hall and the Cocolishi building. Picturesque water fountains and lush landscaping, designed by Carlos Profet, who oversees the streetscapes of the entire project, will complete the improved and embellished look of Oranjestad.











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Can





Another vital route being developed includes the lagoon, which will become a charming expanded water element, visible from Mainstreet and adjacent to the fully restored historic building housing the new Rietveld Art Academy on Wilhelminastraat. The nearby abandoned gas station was redesigned by Glen Goddijn and will serve as the city inspector's office and a visitors' center with a green rooftop garden. The design, inspired by the colonial and Art Deco elements of local architecture, will represent the Oranjestad "school of style." The structure is already blessed by a light sculpture by artist Osaira Muyale, the first of many light elements that will be added to Oranjestad in an effort to transform it into a nighttime destination as well.

The entire scope of the project is both awesome and overwhelming. Having the opportunity to see the big picture of the project reminds me that Rome was not built in a day. Already, we are seeing beauty being uncovered and rediscovered. The streetcar line is up and running, beautiful landscapes are emerging, and now, instead of feeling dread when heading towards town, I open my eyes and look around at all the progress being made, understanding that Oranjestad, indeed, will offer both locals and visitors one of the most culturally charismatic and modernly progressive downtown scenes in the Caribbean. ■

\*The downtown project thrives under the leadership of Minister Benny Sevinger, from the Ministry of Integration, Infrastructure, and Environment, supported by the Council of Ministers of Aruba, headed by Prime Minister Mike Eman.

\*\* Special thanks to Bibi Bikker from Aruba's National Archives.





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Words by Debbie Kunder  
Images by Tina Causey-Bislick

# Coffee

## Culture in Aruba

For so many of us, coffee is such an important part of our day—whether it's a necessary part of our morning wake-up routine, a good excuse for us to meet up with friends, or a nice way to cap off an evening meal. Here in Aruba, we take coffee as seriously as you do, which is why you'll have no problem finding plenty of cafés to get your coffee fix.

The only question is, what type of coffee experience are you looking for? Do you want to treat your taste buds to a hot cuppa coffee made from beans grown only a hop, skip, and a jump away in the Andes Mountains? Do you prefer whiling away the afternoon with friends in a European-style café in a cozy corner, sipping lattes and mochas and sharing three different kinds of cake? Or do you simply need a quick but delicious pick-me-up on your way to the beach? In other words, do you want to go Colombian, Dutch, or American style when having your coffee in Aruba?

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### Enjoy a Cup from the Land of Coffee

Colombian coffee is world famous for its superb quality and distinctive taste, attributed in part to Colombia's unique geography and excellent growing conditions. The majority of Colombia's coffee beans are grown by over 500,000 small farms scattered throughout the region of the Andes Mountains. Most of these farms are represented by the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia. In order to promote Colombian coffee worldwide, the association created the fictional character we all know and love, Juan Valdez. It also created the Juan Valdez Café, a multinational coffeehouse chain that proudly serves premium coffee brewed with beans exclusively grown by the association's constituent farmers.

Lucky for you, Juan Valdez and his trusty mule, Conchita, have made their way to Aruba, where two new Juan Valdez Cafés have set up shop. Juan Valdez coffee is made from 100% Arabica beans for a decidedly smooth, rich, and aromatic cup of coffee. You can

opt to have your coffee made with a coffee pod for maximum freshness, choosing from varieties such as Cumbre (strong flavor and body), Macizo (light brew with sweet and acidic notes), and Colina (medium acidity and body with a pronounced aroma). Also on the menu are filtered coffees, lattes, mochas, cappuccinos, and espressos—all available hot or cold—as well as Nevados (creamy iced coffee coming in various flavors) and coffee frosties (coffee and sweet milk mixed with frosted ice). Not a coffee drinker? Try the hot chai, hot chocolate, or a fruity Fruppe. For a true Colombian coffee-time experience, try the almojábana, a traditional Colombian pastry made with cuajada cheese and corn flour.

### Locations & Opening Hours:

Alhambra, J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47. Open daily 7 am to 10 pm  
 The Village, J.E. Irausquin Blvd. #384 (just across from the Radisson Resort, Casino & Spa). Open Sunday through Thursday, 8 am to 11 pm; Friday and Saturday, 8 am to midnight





## Have a “Wrong” Coffee with the Right Friends

The Dutch have a rich coffee history. It all started when a Dutch merchant smuggled a few coffee bushes out of Yemen in 1616. The prized bushes were nurtured in greenhouses in Amsterdam and later transported to the various Dutch colonies for cultivation. Being the master traders they were, the Dutch turned their colonies (primarily Java and Suriname) into the main suppliers of coffee to Europe by the late 1600s.

Today, the Netherlands ranks as one of the top coffee-consuming countries in the world. There’s no doubt about it: the Dutch like their coffee. But it’s more than just that: they typically have their coffee in the company of friends, family, and co-workers. In short, the Dutch coffee-drinking experience is a decidedly social one.

The Dutch typically enjoy getting together for a mid-morning coffee break, while an after-dinner coffee is also quite popular. Like other Europeans, the Dutch tend to like their coffee strong. Filter coffee is the norm, but coffee pod machines (which make that nice crema layer on top) have also gained in popularity. Cafés also serve espresso drinks, including straight espresso, cappuccino, and koffie verkeerd (literally “wrong coffee” because it has more milk than coffee). And for a special Dutch touch, a single cookie is often served along with your coffee beverage.

When in Aruba, do as the Dutch do: grab a cozy spot and have your coffee with friends—and for that, Smit & Dorlas Coffee House is the perfect place. Inspired by the coffeehouses of Europe, Smit & Dorlas Coffee House exudes class, elegance, and charm. It serves Smit & Dorlas coffee, a famous blend of coffees from Colombia, Brazil, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Kenya, and other coffee countries. A comprehensive menu offers all the usual suspects—espressos, cappuccinos, macchiatos, lattes, and mochas—in addition to homemade frappuccinos. If coffee isn’t your thing, the coffeehouse offers an incredible selection of loose teas from China, Sri Lanka, and India, all beautifully displayed in large glass jars lining the walls. You’ll get that little Dutch cookie along with your coffee or tea selection, but we suggest going for the whole shebang by ordering from the selection of homemade cakes, quiches, and panini.

### Locations & Opening Hours:

De la Sallestraat 30, Oranjestad

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## Get Your Grab-n-Go Coffee

Coffee the American way...we all know what that means: coffee on the go. It also means having plenty of options to choose from and getting your coffee within minutes of your order. Americans are also quite loyal when it comes to the coffee they drink. If you're one of these loyal coffee drinkers, and you just gotta have your Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts when you're vacationing in Aruba, no need to worry...the Island has you covered. Both chains are perfect for grabbing your coffee and taking it with you back to your hotel, to the beach, or along with you as you walk around town.

We're all pretty familiar with Starbucks' huge array of coffee offerings, including brewed coffees, hot and cold espresso drinks, and its famous frappuccinos. And we all know that Starbucks will go to great lengths to customize your coffee exactly how you want it: I'll have a half-decaf, double-tall, sugar-free-vanilla, 2%, extra-foam, 150-degree, no- whip mocha, please. Sound familiar? There's also that incredible level of customer service we've all come to appreciate at Starbucks. What you might not know is that Starbucks carries coffees from three distinct regions of the world—Latin America, Africa/ Arabia, and Asia/Pacific—promising a variety of distinct flavor profiles. And did you know that Starbucks is one of the largest purchasers of Fair Trade Certified coffee in the world?

Aruba has three Starbucks cafés, two located in downtown Oranjestad, and one in the high-rise hotel area. In addition to all the familiar coffee drinks, these cafés offer locally made sweet and savory eats. All three cafés have plenty of room for sitting with friends, or maybe you're solo and just want to plug in and enjoy the free Wi-Fi. But if grabbing and going is your intention, those trusty Starbucks baristas will have your handcrafted beverage in your hand and out the door within three minutes.

## Locations & Opening Hours:

Starbucks Market Place. Open Sunday through Thursday, 7 am to 10 pm; Friday & Saturday, 7 am to 11 pm

Starbucks Renaissance Mall. Open Monday through Saturday, 7 am to 8 pm; Sunday 7 am to 2 pm

Starbucks Paseo Herencia. Open Sunday through Thursday, 7 am to 11 pm; Friday & Saturday, 7 am to midnight







You know the saying: America runs on Dunkin'—yep, even in Aruba! If it's that classic, toasted flavor with a smooth finish that you're looking for, pay a visit to any one of Aruba's six Dunkin' Donuts locations. Not only does Dunkin' Donuts freshly grind its 100% Arabica coffee beans moments before brewing, but it also brews continually throughout the day, ensuring a fresh cup of coffee any time. You want options, you say? In addition to their brewed coffee (hot or iced), Dunkin' Donuts offers espressos, cappuccinos, and lattes (hot or iced), which are all made with 100% Fair Trade Certified espresso beans. Its Dunkaccino combines coffee and hot chocolate, and who could go wrong with one of the refreshing Frozen Coffee Coolattas when you're in Aruba? When you factor in the various add-ins, such as the Turbo Shot of espresso, the presweetened Flavor Swirls, and the sugar-free Flavor Shots, there must be literally thousands of ways to have your coffee at Dunkin' Donuts! (And yeah, better pick out a donut or two for something delicious to dunk in that equally delicious coffee.) ■

#### Locations & Opening Hours:

Playa Linda Beach Resort, De Palm Pier, Tropicana Resort, Alhambra Shopping Bazaar, Seaport Market Place, Tankiflip. Open 6:30 am to 11:30 pm







# Island Spa *Indulgences*

For many vacationers, being pampered in a spa is the ultimate way to unwind and let go of the daily stresses back home. Aruba offers the spa-goer a variety of day spas to choose from, each uniquely imbuing the spirit of the Island—from quaint outdoor beach cabanas to state-of-the-art treatment rooms.

Aruba's spas offer world-class spa amenities in an oasis of understated luxury, with therapists and technicians seasoned in the art of relaxation and rejuvenation.





## Indulgence by the Sea

Indulgence by the Sea has both spa and salon locations at Divi Aruba All Inclusive Beach Resort and Divi Tamarijn Aruba, respectively. The spa offers an extensive list of relaxing signature treatments, such as the Luscious Body—an incredibly indulgent treatment that rejuvenates the skin from head to toe with a full-body exfoliation using raw-sugarcane granules and rich virgin coconut oils, a mango wrap rich in enzymes to dissolve dryness, fine lines, and pigmentation, and a full-body massage with watermelon, papaya, and rich virgin coconut oils to firm and deeply moisturize your skin. Spa owner Angie Martinez has handpicked and tested all of the organic and natural products used in the spa's treatments. Indulgence by the Sea also specializes in bridal parties and special occasions. Relax, reflect, revitalize, and rejoice at Indulgence by the Sea.

### Locations:

Divi Aruba All Inclusive Beach Resort (Spa)

Tel: +(297)583-0083 / +(297)525-5200 Ext. 5298

Tamarijn All Inclusive Beach Resort (Hair & Nail Studio)

Tel: +(297)525-5291/ +(297)525-5200 Ext: 5291

E-Mail [info@spaaruba.com](mailto:info@spaaruba.com) • Website: <http://spaaruba.com>

Hours of Operation: Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm,  
Sundays from 9 am to 4 pm

## Larimar Spa

The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa is home to this award-winning day spa deriving its name from the aqua-colored healing stones that are indigenous to the Caribbean. Named a “Hot Spa” by *Condé Nast Traveller*, Larimar Spa is a tranquil oasis of bamboo and water features surrounded by ten treatment rooms where guests can enjoy a full menu of services, including the signature Aloe Vera and Rum Massage. Additional treatments include advanced skincare therapies, therapeutic and integrated massages from around the world, exfoliating and detoxifying body treatments, and various treatments offered by a full-service salon. All of the massage treatments, including couples massages, may be experienced in the new beachside cabana, accompanied by the gentle sounds of nearby waves.

### Location:

Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. Tel: +(297)526-6053

E-mail: [larimarspa@radissonaruba.com](mailto:larimarspa@radissonaruba.com) • Website: [www.larimarspaaruba.com](http://www.larimarspaaruba.com)

Hours of Operation: Spa: Daily 9 am to 7 pm

Fitness Center: Daily 6 am to 9 pm





Mandara Spa Aruba, located in Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, is the first location in the Caribbean for this resort-spa management company that has more than 60 spas in luxury resort properties around the world. Mandara Spa offers unique treatments within a friendly, relaxed, and open environment accented by a contemporary Balinese-style interior design. This 6,500-square-foot spa is the largest professional spa on the Island, housing four VIP couple treatment rooms with extra-large Jacuzzi baths or Vichy showers, plus eight individual treatment rooms, indoor and outdoor relaxation areas, a steam room, and an exclusive nail/hair salon.

**Locations:**

Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club.  
 Tel: +(297) 520-6750/ +(297) 520-6751. Fax: +(297) 586-4711  
 E-mail: aruba@mandaraspacom.com  
 Website: <http://www.mandaraspacom.com/spa/Aruba-Marriott-Resort-and-Aruba-Ocean-Club.aspx>  
 Hours of Operation:  
 Fitness Center: 24 hours. Spa & Salon: 9 am to 8 pm



Immerse yourself in healing tranquility at Hyatt Regency Aruba's newly renovated ZoiA Spa. One of the top spas in Aruba, ZoiA—meaning balance or poise in Papiamentu—houses eight treatment rooms, many of which offer an indoor/outdoor experience, and all of which offer an extensive spa menu with aloe as the central theme. Using native ingredients, hand-pressed oils, and home-grown herbs, the Aruba-inspired, all-natural treatments are based on the colors of the Aruban flag (yellow, white, blue, and red) and four key Caribbean elements: sun, sand, sea, and love. With relaxing massages, refreshing facials, and rejuvenating treatments, you will feel your cares melt away at this peaceful island spa retreat.

**Location:**

Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort. Tel: +297 - 586 1234  
 Website: <http://aruba.hyatt.com/hyatt/pure/spas/>  
 Hours of Operation:  
 Daily from 8:30 am to 8 pm







### THE RITZ-CARLTON

The Spa at The Ritz-Carlton is a 15,000-square-foot sanctuary that captures the lush, tropical environment and spiritual influences of Aruba in its 13 calming treatment rooms, salon, and retail boutique. The soft Caribbean hues and natural beige furnishings reflect the destination's oceanfront backdrop paired with its arid landscape. Refreshing aromas hand-selected for health, wealth, or happiness—and inspired by the Aruban tradition of wishing stones—fill the air, and the relaxing rhythm of waves enhances The Spa's tranquil island ambiance to help guests unwind and escape the everyday.

A variety of specialty local signature treatments, indigenous scrubs, and spiritual baths are offered. Inspired by the Island's ancient philosophies of health, beauty, and wellness, these treatments incorporate the healing properties of native plants, botanical blossoms, herbs, minerals, and fruits, including aloe, cactus, coconut, and oil sourced from divi-divi trees.

#### Location:

The Spa at The Ritz-Carlton . Phone: (297) 527-2222 ext. 2522  
Call toll free 1-800-241-3333. Open daily from 9 am to 6 pm  
Website: [www.ritzcarlton.com/aruba](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/aruba)

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# What's New?!

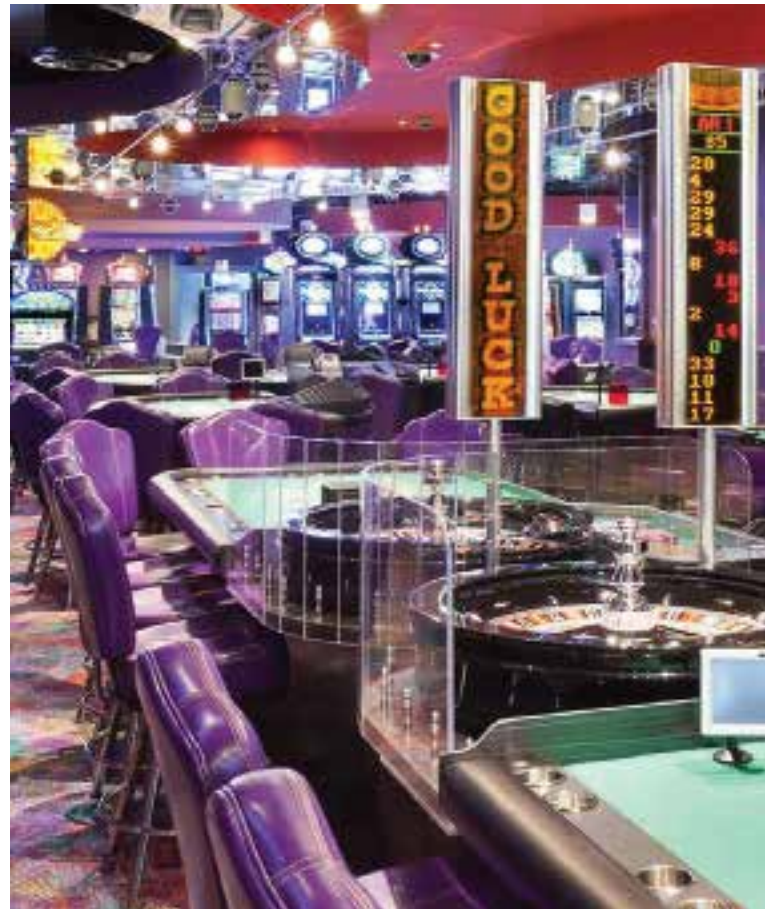
Many of Aruba's guests return year after year. So what's new since you were last here? We saw many new arrivals in 2013, and included here are some of our favorites to add to your 2014 vacation itinerary.

## Pure Ocean delivers pure joy

Pure Ocean makes its home right on the beach at the Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, inviting patrons to unwind in comfortable chairs on a white sandy beach as they watch the sun set with their toes in the sand at the end of a delightful day in paradise. The open-air restaurant, sheltered by a giant palapa, has a rustic décor, and each table enjoys the same spectacular true-to-the-restaurant's-name ocean view.

Pure Ocean opened recently at the same place where the Sunset Bistro once stood. Patrons dine directly on the beach or under the palapa, savoring the chef's fusion-style cooking, featuring fresh seafood, lobster, and great steaks, all reasonably priced and beautifully plated.

Pure Ocean serves breakfast every morning from 7 am to 11 am, and dinner from 5:30 pm to 10 pm. Happy hour is celebrated nightly from 4 pm to 6 pm.



## Lady Luck arrives at Glitz Casino

Located at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino, this new casino includes Liquid Lounge, a chic entertainment venue with a sunken bar and a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system, as well as 12 multi-game slot machines with video slots, poker, keno, and blackjack. And it's not just about gaming—live music from some of the Island's most popular bands and performers makes this a hot nightlife spot for locals and tourists.

The main casino features 200 slot machines and nine table games, including blackjack, roulette, baccarat, and the all-new pyramid stud jackpot poker.



# Regional artists highlight the new L'America Gallery

L'America Gallery, located behind Certified Mega Mall, features a varied selection of regional and Aruban artwork, sculptures, paintings, and art objects, showcasing the abundant talent of Central and South American artists as well as well-established local artists such as Eliza Lejeuz, Grace Ashruf Rahusen, and Elvis Tromp.

The gallery is housed in a beautiful space comprising a series of large and small rooms, featuring works in all sizes and in a variety of styles—from naïve to impressionist, expressionist to minimalist. The gallery also hangs a number of icons and religious works of exceptional beauty and detail.

In addition to art, the gallery also offers framing services by an in-house framer. Knowledgeable Conny Kiers is at the helm, ready to share any information with clients who saunter in for a look.



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# Shivas Gold & Gems expands into prestigious locale

At its downtown location, Shivas Gold & Gems recently annexed another storefront to double its space, expanding into the premium corner spot at the front of the Royal Plaza Mall. The newly defined locale sets the perfect tone for the store's upscale brands.

Shivas is known as a watch specialist for its large variety of watch brands, including IWC, Piaget, Panerai, Girard-Perregaux, Harry Winston, and Chanel, but the store also carries gorgeous jewelry, Swarovski products, and a wide array of Montblanc writing instruments.

In addition to the Royal Plaza location, you can also find Shivas Gold & Gems in the high-rise hotel area at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall.



## Beach Tennis at the Trop

It's one of the fastest-growing sports in the world, and in fact, Aruba is host to one of the largest international beach tennis tournaments in the world (the 2013 event had more than 800 amateur and pro players). Locals play the sport morning, noon, and night, and now an entire beach tennis complex at the Tropicana Aruba Resort & Casino, with 14 lighted courts and an outdoor lounge and bar area, allows locals and tourists ample opportunity to enjoy the game and the social benefits that go along with the sport.



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# Authentically Aruban





Aruba's culinary offerings present a history lesson, highlighting the cultural influences of the Netherlands, South America, and the rest of the Caribbean. Many of the following foods and drinks are enjoyed on special occasions, while others are imbibed much more frequently. Island guests are encouraged to partake in these typical Aruban treats for a genuine local experience.

### Aruba Ariba

Featuring coecoei, a local liquor made according to a centuries-old recipe, the Aruba Ariba is the Island's famous tropical cocktail invented at the Aruba Caribbean Hotel's Bali Bar in the early 1960s. To create this fruity concoction, coecoei, vodka, rum, crème de banana, a splash of grenadine, and fruit juice are poured over ice, gently stirred together, and topped off with a bit of Grand Marnier. And of course, there's no better place to sip a refreshing Aruba Ariba than under a shady palapa on one of Aruba's near-perfect beaches.

### Ayaca

Aruban families and friends gather together during the Christmas season to make ayacas, a traditional holiday treat adopted from South America. Although no two families use the exact same recipe, ayacas are generally made by smearing plantain or banana leaves with a cornmeal dough; adding a mixture of chicken, pork, ham bits, and spices, plus a potpourri of prunes, raisins, olives, pickles, cashews, piccalilli, and pearl onions; and folding the assemblages into neat little packets to be boiled for an hour.

### Balashi Cocktail

"Balashi Cocktail" is the name affectionately given by locals to their delicious drinking water. One sip will verify the worldwide acclaim the beverage has earned for its quality and taste. Its name refers to Aruba's Balashi region, where a state-of-the-art desalination plant desalts, purifies, and filters Caribbean seawater. The superior result flows directly from the tap and is also bottled by the Tropical Bottling Company as "AWA."











## Bolo

Several types of cake are especially popular on the Island, many of them served on special occasions such as birthdays, national holidays, religious holidays, and other celebrations. The most traditional cakes include bread pudding (pan bolo), cashew cake (bolo di cashupete), chocolate torte (bolo chateau), eggnog cake (bolo ponche crema), and prune cake (tert di prium). These cakes can be purchased at bakeries all over the Island.

## Coconut Water

The ubiquity of coconut palms on Aruba provides locals and island guests the opportunity to enjoy fresh coconut water, one of Mother Nature's most delicious and healthy beverages. Streetside vendors cut the tops off young coconuts right in front of their customers to ensure freshness, handing over the beverage to be sipped directly from the shell with a straw. Parties sometimes feature fresh coconut water, with the famous Coconut Charlie cracking coconuts at hotel parties for 40 years.

## Coecoei & Ponche Crema Liquors

According to an ancient Venezuelan Indian recipe, Playa Liquor & Bottling Company combines the sap of agave leaves, rum, and cane sugar to produce a dark-red liquor called coecoei, used to spike a variety of tropical cocktails, most notably the Aruba Ariba. Aruba also produces its own signature version of ponche crema by

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combining egg yolks, cream, rum, and a variety of spices. This rich and smooth eggnog-like beverage is especially popular during the Christmas holiday.

### Cos Dushi

Arubans satisfy their persistent sweet tooth with a variety of homemade confections, collectively known as cos dushi. Cocada, a fudge-like candy made with sugar and coconut, is a popular treat alongside two other candies, tentalaria and panseicu, both made with sugar and nuts. Two favorite cookies are the koeki lerchi, a very simple sugar cookie baked to a crunch, and the macaroni, a coconut-infused cookie with a cake-like texture. Other sweet delights include quesillo, Aruba's own take on caramel flan, and tamarind balls, which are small globes of tamarind pulp rolled in granulated sugar for that perfect balance of sweet and sour. All of these treats are ubiquitously found on the Island—at supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, and even hardware stores.

### Fish Creole

Fish creole, locally known as pisca hasa crioyo, is a traditional Aruban dish still prepared in many a home and restaurant on the Island. The dish is deliciously simple: pan-fried slices of fresh fish fillet served in a basic gravy of onion, tomato, bell pepper, and garlic. The only thing that could make the meal more perfect is a side plate of pan bati or funcchi.







### Funchi

Funchi—Aruba’s own version of polenta—is a thick, cornmeal porridge traditionally served as an accompaniment to rich stews and fish platters. Funchi porridge can also be cooled, cut into flat slices, and fried to a light golden brown as a crispy variation.



### Hot Sauce

An assortment of all-natural, made-in-Aruba hot sauces can be found in just about every restaurant and home, plus several grocery stores, on the Island. These hot sauces, known as pica among the locals, pack an intense punch, for they feature the exceptionally hot Madame Jeanette pepper, a variety of chili closely related to the habanero and Scotch-bonnet varieties. The Madame Jeanette’s fire is slightly tempered by green papaya in a particularly unique version of Aruban pica called pica di papaya.



### Keri Keri

Drier types of firm, white-flesh fish, such as barracuda or shark, are ideally suited for making one of Aruba’s popular seafood dishes, keri keri. A fish fillet is boiled in salted water, removed and shredded, and then sauteed in butter with tomato, onion, celery, bell pepper, fresh basil, black pepper, and annato spice to create a tasty, satisfying meal.





### Keshi Yena

This Aruban dish, which translates to “stuffed cheese,” is traditionally made by filling the left-over rind of an Edam or Gouda cheese wheel with spiced meat, onion, tomato, green pepper, olives, capers, raisins, and piccalilli; covering the wheel with its original cap; and then baking the stuffed wheel in the oven until hot and bubbly. Some cooks choose to conveniently line a casserole dish with slices of cheese instead of using the scooped cheese shell.

### Pan Bati

Like funchi, pan bati serves as the perfect accompaniment to stews, soups, and fish dishes. Made from cornflour and cooked in a casuela—a traditional clay baking dish originally from Spain—pan bati lies somewhere between a flatbread and a pancake. Compared to an American pancake, it is denser and less sweet.

### Pastechi

This irresistible half-moon pastry is the national snack of Aruba. The classic pastechi is made by stuffing a pocket of slightly sweet dough with cheese and then deep-frying it to tender perfection. Other savory fillings include ham, beef, chicken, and fish. Pastechis are sold islandwide at grocery stores, convenience stores, and snack bars.

### Sopi

Several soups are especially popular with the locals. Sopi yambo is Antillean gumbo made with pureed okra for a thick, smooth consistency. Sopi mondongo is a traditional combination of tripe, spices, a medley of vegetables, and West Indian pumpkin, or calabas. Sopi oester is the local oyster soup, with each restaurant and household claiming rights to the best recipe on the Island. Sopi cabrito is a bouillon-based soup made with goat meat, garlic, tomato, celery, bell pepper, and vermicelli.

### Stoba

Despite the warm weather, stews are popular on Aruba. The classic Aruban recipes for beef stew (carni stoba) and goat stew (cabrito stoba) each feature meat, potato, onion, garlic, and chili pepper in a tomato-based gravy. Conch stew (calco stoba) is made from the meat of conch shellfish, onion, bell pepper, and a white-wine vinegar stock. Two popular side dishes, funchi and pan bati, are usually served with these stews for a well-rounded meal. ■

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# About Trudy Lampe

*Our front-cover artist*

Words by Rona Coster

Trudy was born in the fishing village of Savaneta, located in southwestern Aruba. Her interest in art began at a very early age as she hails from a creative family, her dad being a talented musician.

In 1976, she took her first pottery course. She continued exploring the art and developing her technique in the Netherlands at Sticusa, a Dutch foundation for the arts, for a period of two years. In 1978, she came back to Aruba to work at the not-for-profit Fundacion Artesania Arubiano, teaching all she had learned overseas to young students, some of them handicapped.

In 1980, she started her own pottery studio, producing a variety of artisan crafts and targeting tourists as potential clients. At the same time, she was also inspired to paint Aruban landscapes on her ceramic pieces. As the demand for her work grew, she experimented with paint on different materials, such as driftwood, and having always been an admirer of African and Indian masks, she was moved to create her signature African-Caribbean masks.

Trudy favors the use of bright colors, their energy reminding her audience that she lives and works in the Caribbean. "My personal imagination," she explains, "paints the Caribbean's bright and happy colors, reflecting a carefree lifestyle, in warm weather, surrounded by gentle people." Trudy's atelier can be found in her home village of Savaneta, where she raises her family of three kids. She also runs a small kiosk brimming with her creations in the small artisan market across from the cruise-ship terminal. Email: [trudylampe@hotmail.com](mailto:trudylampe@hotmail.com). Tel.: 746 2279





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